

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire



INTRODUCTION

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF J.K. ROWLING

Rowling's father was an aircraft mechanic and her mother was a science technician. She was the first of two children and has said that she was a very unhappy teen: her mother suffered from multiple sclerosis and her relationship with her father was strained. She graduated from the University of Exeter in 1986 and then worked as a researcher and a secretary in London. She conceived of the first Harry Potter book in 1990 and began to write immediately. Rowling's mother died in December of that year, and Rowling channeled much of her grief into the novel. Over the next few years, Rowling married, had her first daughter, divorced, and signed up for welfare benefits. She finished *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 1995 and after its publication in 1997, Rowling began her rise to fame. The proceeds from the U.S. auction for the publishing rights allowed Rowling to buy a flat in Edinburgh and over the next ten years, Rowling wrote and published the next six books in the series. She also remarried in 2001 and had two more children. In 2004 she became the first billionaire to make her fortune writing books, though her donations to charity mean that she's since lost her billionaire status. She also published several crime novels under the pen name Robert Galbraith and has written the screenplays for the films in the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

While the Wizarding world is entirely fictional, Rowling draws on a number of historical events and practices to build and expand Harry's world. The rise of Voldemort and his Death Eaters (and in particular, their insistence on promoting a world made up of pure-blooded wizards only) mimics that of the Nazis in Germany in the early 20th century. Additionally, the house-elves', goblins', and giants' situations and desire for rights and recognition draws on the history of chattel slavery (in the case of the house-elves) and more generally, the historical and current practice of white society discriminating against minorities through legal and legislative channels. Several scholars have also noted that given how Rowling conceives of life after Hogwarts (specifically, that there's no indication that there are institutions of higher education and that Hogwarts graduates immediately enter the workforce), she draws on historical guild systems of labor, particularly those practiced in the late Middle Ages.

RELATED LITERARY WORKS

In addition to the original seven novels in the Harry Potter

series, J.K. Rowling has written several other works and supplemental stories that fit into the same Wizarding world. In particular, her "History of Magic in North America" stories, which she published on her fan site Pottermore, continues the project she begins in *Goblet of Fire* of expanding Harry and the reader's understanding of the global scope of the Wizarding community. Much of the plot of Rowling's stage play *The Cursed Child*, which follows Harry's son as he experiments with time travel, concerns traveling back in time to the Triwizard Tournament to save Cedric Diggory. In terms of other contemporary novels, *Goblet of Fire* shares many broad similarities with Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games trilogy, which also deals with children participating in a deadly competition and dealing with a corrupt government. Rowling's work is often compared with that of J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Hobbit*; *The Lord of the Rings*) and of C.S. Lewis (*The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* and the rest of the Chronicles of Narnia series). Rowling has cited the work of Jane Austen (and the novel *Emma* in particular) as a major influence in her own writing, as well as the work of author and activist Jessica Mitford (*Hons and Rebels*).

KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
- **When Written:** 1999-2000
- **Where Written:** Edinburgh, Scotland
- **When Published:** 2000
- **Literary Period:** Contemporary
- **Genre:** Young Adult Fiction; Fantasy
- **Setting:** Hogwarts
- **Climax:** Cornelius Fudge refuses to believe Harry's story that Voldemort has returned
- **Antagonist:** Voldemort; Rita Skeeter
- **Point of View:** Third-person limited

EXTRA CREDIT

S.P.E.W. Around the World. In foreign-language translations of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, translators devised a variety of acronyms for S.P.E.W. that are just as silly as the word "spew" is in English. The acronyms in the Slovenian, Croatian, and Latvian novels translate to "vomit," while the Catalan and Spanish versions of S.P.E.W. are translations of "fart."

The Weird Sisters. The famous Wizarding band that plays at the Yule Ball, The Weird Sisters, is named after the witches in the Shakespeare play *Macbeth*. The band in the film version of

Goblet of Fire (which was made up of members of the bands Radiohead and Pulp) isn't mentioned by name due to a conflict with a Canadian folk band called the Wyrds Sisters, who owned the copyright to the band name in Canada and sued Warner Bros. for copyright infringement.



PLOT SUMMARY

In a small village called Little Hangleton, an old groundskeeper named Frank Bryce wakes up and sees that village boys lit a fire in the house he cares for. When he goes to investigate, he finds two men, Voldemort and Wormtail, talking about "Muggles" and "Quidditch," as well as a now-dead woman named Bertha Jorkins. They also mention killing a boy named Harry Potter. Wormtail kills Frank. Miles away, the fourteen-year-old wizard Harry Potter wakes from this dream, his curse scar hurting. Afraid that this means bad news, he writes to his godfather, Sirius. The next day, Mr. Weasley, Fred, George, and Ron arrive in the Dursleys' living room via Floo Powder. Fred and George bait Dudley, who's on a diet, with Ton-Tongue Toffee, which makes his tongue grow to be several feet long. This gets the twins in trouble with Mrs. Weasley when they return to the Burrow. Harry meets the oldest Weasley sons, Bill and Charlie, and learns that Percy is now working at the Ministry for a man named Mr. Crouch.

The following morning, Mr. Weasley leads Harry, Hermione, and his youngest four children to take a Portkey to the World Cup. They travel with Amos Diggory and his son Cedric. At the campsite, Harry is struck to see wizards and witches from around the world. The match is between Ireland and Bulgaria, whose Seeker, Viktor Krum, Ron idolizes. Throughout the day, Harry meets Mr. Crouch and Ludo Bagman, the head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports, who's unconcerned about the disappearance of Bertha Jorkins, an employee of his department. The twins bet on the match with Bagman and surprisingly, they win their bet. The Weasley party gets to sit in the top box for the match and there, they meet Mr. Crouch's house-elf, Winky. She's saving Mr. Crouch a seat, is terrified of heights, and tells Harry that Dobby loves his freedom but can't find work since he wants to be paid.

Hours after everyone goes to bed, Mr. Weasley wakes up the children and tells them to get out of the tent, as there's a riot going on outside. Harry sees that masked men, whom Mr. Weasley believes are Voldemort's supporters, are levitating Mr. Roberts, the Muggle who owns the campsite, and his family. As Harry, Ron, and Hermione run into the woods with others, Harry realizes he has lost his wand. Draco Malfoy maliciously tells the trio that Hermione, as a Muggle-born, is in danger. They see Winky trying to run away from the tents and minutes later, someone near them sends a green skull with a snake for a tongue into the sky--Voldemort's Dark Mark. Ministry officials arrive and accuse the trio of conjuring the Mark, but then they

discover Winky in the bushes with Harry's wand. Mr. Crouch fires her, though Winky denies conjuring the Dark Mark.

Over the next week, Mr. Weasley spends most of his time at work. The journalist Rita Skeeter writes sensationalist articles about rumors of dead bodies, which Mr. Weasley insists are nonsense. On the day that everyone is due to return to school, Mr. Weasley gets an urgent call to go help someone named Mad-Eye, whose dustbins "attacked" him. After the welcome feast, Dumbledore announces that Mad-Eye Moody will teach Defense Against the Dark Arts and explains that Hogwarts will host the Triwizard Tournament, a competition between Hogwarts and two other European Wizarding schools. He says that only students over the age of seventeen will be able to participate. While this news is greeted with excitement, Hermione is enraged to discover that there are house-elves working at Hogwarts.

The first few weeks of classes go smoothly. Hermione starts the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare, or S.P.E.W., and bullies Harry and Ron into joining. Hagrid refuses to join and insists that it'd be a disservice to the elves, since they enjoy their work. The Gryffindors have their first lesson with Moody, in which he teaches them about the Unforgivable Curses. On October 30, students from the other two schools arrive. Madame Maxime, who's as tall as Hagrid, brings students from Beauxbatons in France, while Professor Karkaroff brings students, including Viktor Krum, from Durmstrang in Eastern Europe. Over the next 24 hours, students put their names in the Goblet of Fire, around which Dumbledore drew an Age Line to prevent underage entrants. At the feast on Halloween, the goblet names Fleur Delacour the Beauxbatons champion; Viktor Krum the Durmstrang champion; and Cedric Diggory the Hogwarts champion. It then names Harry as a fourth champion. Mr. Crouch and Bagman, who organized the Tournament, insist that Harry has to compete. Harry is afraid and none of his peers, including Ron, believe him that he didn't put his name in the Goblet of Fire.

Life for Harry is horrendous in the following weeks, especially after Rita Skeeter publishes an article about Harry that barely mentions the other champions. Sirius asks Harry to meet in the Gryffindor common room the weekend before the task but before Harry meets Sirius, Hagrid shows Harry that the first task will be tackling dragons. Sirius warns Harry about Karkaroff, who is a former Death Eater, and he is concerned that someone wants to use the Tournament as an excuse to kill Harry. The next day, Harry shares what the first task will be with Cedric. After he catches Harry doing this, Moody leads to Harry decide to get past the dragon on his broomstick. Harry does just that the next day and receives high marks for his performance. Ron also makes up with Harry.

Things improve for Harry after this and he believes that he has lots of time before the second task in February to figure out what the mysterious wailing that comes from his golden dragon

egg clue means. Hermione discovers that Dobby and Winky are both employed in the kitchens, though Winky isn't adjusting well. McGonagall announces the Yule Ball and makes it clear to Harry that he's required to bring a girl. Harry and Ron struggle with this task and Ron gets into a fight with Hermione when, the week before, he decides to ask her as a last resort. Harry and Ron end up going with Parvati and Padma Patil and at the ball discover that Hermione is Krum's date. This infuriates Ron. To make things worse, Harry and Ron overhear Hagrid talking to Maxime about being a half-giant. After the ball, Cedric tells Harry to take a bath with his egg but Harry ignores his advice. In the following days, Skeeter publishes an article outing Hagrid as a half-giant and for a few weeks, Hagrid hides and refuses to teach.

February comes quickly and Harry doesn't decide to listen to Cedric until two weeks before the second task. He uses the prefects' bathroom and there, Moaning Myrtle helps him decipher the merpeople's song contained in the egg. On Harry's way back from the bathroom, Moody helps Harry when Harry falls through a trick staircase and in return, Moody asks to borrow the Marauder's Map. Harry spends all his free time trying to figure out how to breathe underwater for an hour and never figures it out--Dobby wakes Harry and gives him gillyweed ten minutes before the task starts. Harry arrives in time to compete and is the first to swim to the bottom of the lake, where he finds Ron, Hermione, Cho, and Gabrielle tied up and asleep. He waits until Cedric and Krum rescue Cho and Hermione and insists on taking Gabrielle to the surface along with Ron. Though Ron insists that Harry was stupid for doing this since Gabrielle wouldn't actually have been hurt, Harry nonetheless earns extra points for "moral fiber." Percy takes Mr. Crouch's place as the fifth judge.

The trio takes extra food to Hogsmeade where they meet up with Sirius. He's concerned that Mr. Crouch hasn't been showing up for the Tournament events and hasn't been coming to work: Mr. Crouch made his name as a workaholic and, though he's on the side of good, abused his power and put his own son in Azkaban for getting involved with the Death Eaters. The next day, Harry, Ron, and Hermione visit Dobby in the kitchens and see that Winky has now turned to alcoholic butterbeer to deal with her unhappiness. Not long after, Skeeter publishes an article accusing Hermione of toying with Harry and Krum's emotions and Hermione begins receiving hate mail.

In May, Harry and the champions learn that the third task will entail navigating a maze to reach the Triwizard Cup. After this announcement, Krum asks Harry about his relationship with Hermione. The two are interrupted by a wild-looking Mr. Crouch, who asks to speak to Dumbledore. When Harry and Dumbledore return, Mr. Crouch is gone and Krum has been Stunned. Moody searches the forest but doesn't find Mr. Crouch. In Divination the next week, Harry falls asleep and has

a dream in which he sees Voldemort torturing Wormtail. He wakes screaming and goes to speak to Dumbledore. Dumbledore leaves Harry in his office and through the Pensieve, Harry falls into Dumbledore's memories of trials of Death Eaters. He sees Karkaroff, Bagman, and a young man he recognizes as Mr. Crouch's son go on trial for being Death Eaters. When Dumbledore pulls Harry out of the Pensieve, he shares that Mr. Crouch's son was convicted for torturing Neville's parents. Harry realizes he's never asked Neville why he lives with his grandmother. Rita Skeeter publishes an article about Harry's episode in Divination suggesting that he's mentally unstable.

On the day of the third task, Harry is confident as he enters the maze. He and Cedric fight a giant spider together and, when it injures Harry, they decide to tie by touching the Cup at the same time. The cup is a Portkey and transports them to a graveyard. Wormtail kills Cedric, binds Harry, and performs a spell that returns Voldemort to his body. Voldemort summons his Death Eaters and challenges Harry to a duel. Harry and Voldemort's wands connect when they curse each other and the shadows of Voldemort's victims come out of his wand. They give Harry time to get back to the Cup and take Cedric's body back to Hogwarts. When Harry returns, Moody takes Harry away and reveals that he orchestrated the whole thing. As he prepares to kill Harry, Dumbledore, McGonagall, and Snape arrive. Moody transforms into Barty Crouch and under the influence of a Truth Potion, explains that Mr. Crouch kept him alive and imprisoned at home but he's remained loyal to Voldemort. Using information gleaned from Bertha Jorkins, Voldemort has been controlling Mr. Crouch for months. Barty Crouch killed his father when he showed up at Hogwarts. The real Moody is imprisoned in his own trunk.

Dumbledore takes Harry to his office, where he and Sirius listen to what happened in the graveyard. Harry then goes to the hospital wing and wakes to find Fudge in the room, who does not believe that Voldemort is back. He refuses to listen to Dumbledore, suggests that Harry isn't trustworthy, and has a dementor administer the Kiss to Barty Crouch. After Fudge storms off, Dumbledore sends Sirius to alert "the old crowd" and Hermione slams her hand against the window. At the final feast, Dumbledore makes it clear that Voldemort is back and killed Cedric for no reason. On the train home, Hermione reveals that Rita Skeeter is an unregistered Animagus and has been spying on them in her beetle form all year, but Hermione finally caught her in the hospital wing. As everyone disembarks, Harry gives Fred and George his Triwizard winnings so they can start a joke shop, as they lost their money to Bagman when he refused to honor their bet.



CHARACTERS

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Harry Potter – A fourteen-year-old wizard who attends Hogwarts. As a baby, the Dark Lord Voldemort tried to kill Harry but because Harry's mother Lily sacrificed herself, the curse backfired and almost entirely destroyed Voldemort instead. Because of this, Harry has been raised by his Muggle aunt and uncle, Petunia and Vernon. Harry is still a child at the beginning of the novel but as the novel progresses, he begins to understand that the Wizarding world is much larger than he gave it credit for. He learns that there are Wizarding schools around the world and, most importantly, discovers at the Quidditch World Cup just how terrifying Voldemort's reign of terror was. Harry isn't upset when, upon learning that the Triwizard Tournament will take place at Hogwarts, he also learns that students under the age of seventeen can't compete: because Harry is famous, he's excited to be able to take a backseat. However, someone puts Harry's name in the Goblet of Fire and Harry is chosen as a fourth champion. In the early days of the Tournament, Harry learns that he can't trust everything he reads when the journalist Rita Skeeter publishes sensationalist articles about him. Over the course of the three tasks, Harry dedicates himself to behaving kindly and empathetically to his fellow competitors, though he struggles to do so with Cedric when Cedric takes Cho, the girl Harry likes, to the Yule Ball. Much to Harry's surprise, he's tied with Cedric for the lead by the start of the third task and demonstrates his commitment to being kind and sharing his fame when he suggests that he and Cedric tie and share the glory. This, however, results in Cedric being murdered by Wormtail when both he and Harry are transported to a graveyard for the purpose of returning Voldemort to his body. Harry shows that he's learned the power of caring for others when he agrees to bring Cedric's body back to Hogwarts. Because of Rita Skeeter's smear campaign, Fudge doesn't believe Harry's story that Voldemort has returned. Harry gives his prize money to Fred and George to start their joke shop.

Ron Weasley – Harry's best friend. Ron is the second youngest Weasley child and because of this, he struggles to define himself and stand out in his family, given that all of his older brothers are accomplished (even if, in the case of Fred and George, nobody takes their skill at manufacturing joke products seriously). This means that when Harry's name comes out of the Goblet of Fire, Ron is extremely jealous--Harry's fame and fortune make Ron feel even more inferior, and he feels as though Harry went behind his back to enter without giving Ron the chance to enter too. Though he ignores Harry until after the first task, Ron continues to stand up for Hermione, which earns him detention from Snape. In private, however, Ron and Hermione fight for most over the year over Hermione's organization S.P.E.W., which Ron thinks is ridiculous; he sees no real reason to free the house-elves if they don't want to be freed. After Ron reaffirms his friendship with Harry, he jumps wholeheartedly into trying to figure out who put Harry's name in the Goblet of Fire, though his critical thinking skills aren't as

well-developed as Harry's or Hermione's. Especially as jealousy begins to get the better of Ron when Viktor Krum takes Hermione to the Yule Ball, Ron insists that Hermione is "fraternizing with the enemy" and that the point of the Tournament is to win, not make friends. The Yule Ball is especially painful for Ron because of his family's financial situation, as Mrs. Weasley bought Ron secondhand dress robes that are moldy and have lace trim. Ron spends most of the school year pining for Fleur, the gorgeous Beauxbatons champion who has veela ancestry. He also acts as a window into the Wizarding world and explains to Harry about why giants aren't trusted by the Wizarding community. Ron respects Dumbledore's request to not ask Harry questions about the third task until Harry is ready to talk about it, and he finally puts aside his jealousy of Krum by asking Krum for his autograph at the end of the school year.

Hermione Granger – One of Harry's best friends at Hogwarts and the smartest witch in Harry's year. It's a nasty shock for Hermione when she discovers that there are around 100 house-elves at Hogwarts. This is most shocking for her because her favorite book, [Hogwarts: A History](#), says nothing about their presence at Hogwarts, which begins to show Hermione that she can't trust everything she reads to tell the whole truth. She begins to protest on behalf of elves by starting the organization S.P.E.W., which seeks to liberate house-elves and guarantee them payment, time off, and representation at the Ministry. Hermione shapes her movement using the abuse of the house-elf Winky as her main argument, but she doesn't ask any of the Hogwarts house-elves or Winky herself if they actually want freedom--and she refuses to listen when they tell her that they like life as it is. Throughout the Tournament, Hermione throws herself into helping Harry prepare by helping him master charms and curses that might be useful and doing research for him. She does, however, look down on copying in general and gives Ron and Harry grief for making up parts of their Divination homework. Though Hermione initially shows little interest in Viktor Krum, they eventually become romantically involved and Hermione attends the Yule Ball with him. Around the time of the ball, Ron and Harry notice that Hermione is beginning to grow up and is actually quite pretty: she allows Madam Pomfrey to shrink her teeth after Malfoy curses Hermione's teeth to grow without stopping, and she's so pretty as to be unrecognizable at the ball. Hermione takes great offense when Rita Skeeter continues to publish article after article spreading lies about Harry, outing Hagrid as being a half-giant, and suggesting that Hermione is toying with Harry and Krum's emotions. Hermione eventually discovers that Rita Skeeter is an unregistered Animagus who can turn into a beetle, captures Skeeter, and makes her promise to stop writing horrible articles about people.

Mr. Crouch – The Head of the Department of International Magical Cooperation. Mr. Crouch is an uptight and exacting

individual who's very caught up in his own importance. Though the novel initially plays this for laughs--though Mr. Crouch has employed Percy for nearly three months at the start of the novel, he still doesn't know Percy's last name--this quality soon begins to take on a very sinister tone. Mr. Crouch fires his house-elf, Winky, for disobeying him at the Quidditch World Cup, which Hermione takes as an indication of how awful Mr. Crouch's character is. Later, Sirius says that Hermione interprets Mr. Crouch's character correctly: Mr. Crouch was responsible for putting Sirius and other suspected Death Eaters in Azkaban without a trial. Sirius explains that Mr. Crouch was, at that time, poised to become Minister of Magic but took his power and his goals too seriously. When it came to light that his son, Barty Crouch, was involved with the Death Eaters, Mr. Crouch sent his son to Azkaban and both his son and his wife died within the year. Harry notices that Mr. Crouch looks progressively sicker throughout the year and around Christmas, Mr. Crouch stops coming to work. A month before the third task, Mr. Crouch shows up on the Hogwarts grounds, seemingly mad but asking to speak to Dumbledore. He disappears before he has the opportunity. Later, Harry and Dumbledore discover that Barty Crouch and Mr. Crouch's wife swapped places using Polyjuice Potion and Mr. Crouch kept Barty at home under an Invisibility Cloak and the Imperius Curse. Though in all other cases Mr. Crouch seems to be a competent wizard, they learn that when Bertha Jorkins confronted him about this, Mr. Crouch didn't perform the Memory Charm properly and permanently damaged her memory. When Voldemort arrives on the Crouch doorstep, he places Mr. Crouch under the Imperius Curse--hence his absence from work--but eventually, Mr. Crouch begins fighting it. This is why Harry finds him on the Hogwarts grounds. Barty Crouch kills his father and, after transfiguring his body into a bone, buries him.

Professor Moody – Because Barty Crouch uses Polyjuice Potion to impersonate Mad-Eye Moody for the entirety of the novel, it's unclear exactly how Moody-like the man Harry knows actually is--though Barty Crouch is able to fool Dumbledore, which suggests he did a reasonably good job. What is definitely true is that Moody used to be a skilled Auror who's responsible for putting many Death Eaters behind bars. He's a scarred and grizzled man who has one wooden leg and a magical eye that can swivel in all directions, see through solid objects, and see through Invisibility Cloaks. His years as an Auror left him suspicious of everyone and he sees plots everywhere; adults note that Moody's habit of seeing assassination attempts where there are none means that many people don't believe he's entirely sane anymore. The real Moody that Harry sees in Dumbledore's Pensieve believes that the dementors are a just punishment for Death Eaters and expresses disbelief that former Death Eaters can ever reform. He drinks from a hip flask exclusively, which allows Barty Crouch the perfect cover and means that he can take his

Polyjuice Potion every hour without raising suspicion. The fake Moody who teaches Harry is a surprisingly competent teacher and believes that the only way that students will be able to move forward in the world is by knowing as much as possible about what's out there. He teaches them about the Unforgivable Curses in particular and teaches them to throw off the Imperius Curse. Moody also tries to underhandedly help Harry win the Tournament by manipulating decent people into helping Harry and by leading Harry in the right direction. When Dumbledore discovers the fake Moody preparing to kill Harry after the third task, he discovers the real Moody locked in his own trunk. Madam Pomfrey tells Harry that Moody is going to be all right.

Lord Voldemort – The villain of the novel, the Dark Lord Voldemort is a snakelike human obsessed with conquering death and creating a world in which pureblood wizards are the only people with power. He especially hates Muggles and his supporters torture Muggles for fun. Voldemort tried to kill Harry thirteen years ago but was destroyed when, thanks to Lily Potter's sacrifice, the curse rebounded on him. Though Harry spends most of the novel believing that Voldemort still doesn't have a body, the reader is aware from the beginning that Voldemort inhabits some sort of small body for the entirety of the novel. This is because in the months before the novel begins, Voldemort's supporter Wormtail found him and was able to follow Voldemort's instructions to concoct a spell that would return him to a body. Voldemort shows throughout the novel that he's cruel and unconcerned about taking life when it's convenient to do so. He murders Bertha Jorkins when she's no longer useful to him, and he tells Wormtail to murder Cedric Diggory in the graveyard because Cedric wasn't supposed to be there. In the graveyard, Wormtail is able to finish Voldemort's spell and return him to the body he inhabited before his first downfall. Harry learns that one of Voldemort's greatest skills is making the world feel small and as though people can't trust anyone. He sees this both within Voldemort's ranks, as many Death Eaters don't know who else is on their side, and without--Mr. Weasley shares that because Voldemort often used the Imperius Curse, people against Voldemort still had no idea who was acting of their own accord. Though Voldemort tries to kill Harry, he's unsuccessful because of the shadows of previous victims that Harry managed to free from Voldemort's wand. Fortunately for Voldemort, however, Fudge doesn't believe Harry that Voldemort returned.

Barty Crouch – Mr. Crouch's son. As a young man Barty Crouch got involved with the Death Eaters. This tarnished his father's reputation, especially since Barty Crouch was allegedly involved in torturing Frank Longbottom and his wife with the Cruciatus Curse, attacks that Dumbledore tells Harry shocked the Wizarding world. Mr. Crouch sent him to Azkaban, though he did give his terrified son a trial. Harry witnesses the trial when he finds himself in Dumbledore's Pensieve and thinks

that Barty Crouch is a victim of Voldemort and the mayhem that Voldemort spreads. Most people believe that Barty Crouch died a year after being imprisoned in Azkaban. However, in the aftermath of the third task, Harry and Dumbledore learn that Barty Crouch didn't die: he and his mother traded places and he spent the next thirteen years living in Mr. Crouch's home, under an Invisibility Cloak and under the influence of the Imperius Curse. Bertha Jorkins was the only person who suspected that Barty was still alive, but Mr. Crouch modified her memory when she confronted him about it--and when Jorkins ended up in Voldemort's vicinity, he broke through the Memory Charm and was able to discover Barty. After this, Voldemort and Barty Crouch devised a plan for Barty to use the Polyjuice Potion to impersonate the Auror Mad-Eye Moody and teach at Hogwarts. He spends his year guiding Harry so that he'll win the Tournament and only reveals himself after the third task. He tells Harry several times that what he hates most is Death Eaters who walked free, and under the influence of Veritaserum, he shares that what he truly wants is for those Death Eaters who went free to be punished by Voldemort. Fudge brings a dementor to administer the Dementor's Kiss to Barty Crouch, thereby making him a useless witness.

Sirius Black – Harry's godfather. Until a year before the start of the novel, Sirius was imprisoned in Azkaban for a crime he didn't commit. Because Harry wasn't able to provide evidence of Sirius's innocence, Sirius is on the run and out of the country until news from home becomes concerning enough to make Sirius feel compelled to return. Because Harry has never had a caring adult like Sirius in his life before, he struggles to remember that he can call on Sirius for help when he needs it. For his part, Sirius takes his responsibility as Harry's godfather seriously and even hides out around Hogsmeade starting in the months before the third task. Because Sirius is an unregistered Animagus and can turn into a dog, he fools Hogsmeade residents into thinking he's a stray. The way that Sirius interprets Rita Skeeter's articles suggests that Sirius has strong critical thinking skills. Though he recognizes that Skeeter loves to stir up trouble, he also understands that there's often a nugget of truth hidden in articles that are mostly nonsense and fiction. While he doesn't openly support S.P.E.W., he does point out that it says a lot about a person's character if they treat individuals who are relatively powerless poorly when Hermione tells him about Mr. Crouch firing his house-elf Winky. Harry learns that Sirius has been communicating with Dumbledore for most of the year and it seems as though the two adults do work together to help and protect Harry. After the third task, Dumbledore asks Sirius to reveal himself to Mrs. Weasley and to Snape so that they can begin to work together to fight Voldemort. Snape and Sirius knew each other and were enemies at school, but because both men are loyal to Dumbledore, they put aside their differences enough to shake hands.

Ludo Bagman – The Head of Magical Games and Sports and a former Beater for the Wimbourne Wasps Quidditch team. Harry observes that Bagman looks like a once-powerful man who's begun to go to seed; he often wears Quidditch robes, but they don't fit especially well because of his developing belly. Bagman is good-natured, though in the eyes of people like Mr. Crouch and Percy, Bagman is hopeless and a disgrace. Hermione agrees with them, given that Bagman seems wholly unaware of the riot at the Quidditch World Cup. Others also believe that Bagman's lack of concern in regards to Bertha Jorkins's disappearance reflects poorly on his character and his competence. He's partially responsible for organizing the Triwizard Tournament. When Harry's name comes out of the Goblet of Fire, Bagman is unconcerned and mostly just excited. Puzzlingly for Harry, Bagman offers him help throughout the Tournament and he, Hermione, and Ron see Bagman in Hogsmeade with goblins on weekends when Bagman has no reason to be in town. Near the end of the year, Harry learns from Fred and George that Bagman has a gambling problem and has refused for almost a year to follow through on a bet that Fred and George won. Bagman is also in trouble betting with goblins and runs away after the Tournament concludes, as the goblins seem intent on making him follow through on giving them their money. During Harry's time in Dumbledore's Pensieve, he discovers that Bagman was once accused of passing information to Death Eaters. However, Bagman was cleared of charges and thanks to his status as a star Quidditch player, was able to salvage his reputation and go on to hold his job in the Ministry.

Hagrid – The gamekeeper at Hogwarts. Hagrid is a tall and wild-looking man who, despite his potentially terrifying appearance, is one of the kindest, gentlest, and most supportive people Harry knows. Hagrid adores scary and violent animals, which leads him to develop the Blast-Ended Skrewts, illegal hybrids that Hagrid thinks are charming but his Care of Magical Creatures students think are horrifying and dangerous. Hagrid is just as worried as the other adults in Harry's life when Harry's name comes out of the Goblet of Fire, and throughout the Tournament, Hagrid supports Harry and assures him that things are going to be okay. He helps Harry in a more active way before the first task when he shows Harry the dragons that feature prominently in the task. Hagrid also takes a liking to the headmistress of Beauxbatons, Madame Maxime, who's just as tall as Hagrid is. During the Yule Ball, Harry and Ron overhear that Hagrid is so large because his mother is a giantess. When the journalist Rita Skeeter learns this and publishes an article suggesting that Hagrid is dangerous and violent, Hagrid tries to resign from his teaching post and at least for a while, he takes his hate mail seriously. Between Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Dumbledore, they're able to convince him that he's an integral figure at Hogwarts and belongs at the school. Hagrid is one of the referees for the final task and also contributes several creatures, including a Blast-

Ended Skrewt and a giant spider, to the maze. He assures Harry after the third task that life will go on and shares that over the summer, he and Madame Maxime will be going on a secret mission for Dumbledore.

Professor Dumbledore – The headmaster of Hogwarts; an old and wizened wizard who, according to nearly everyone, is one of the most accomplished wizards of the age. He takes his students' safety and their education seriously by putting the Age Line in place around the Goblet of Fire, thereby preventing underage students from entering. He also hires Mad-Eye Moody, which Sirius suggests means that Dumbledore is "reading the signs" and believes that trouble is brewing. Dumbledore confirms this later when he shares with Harry that he reads the Muggle newspapers and finds the mysterious disappearance of the Muggle man Frank Bryce concerning. Throughout the novel, Dumbledore shows himself to be openhearted and accepting of all sorts of different people and beings. Harry notes that Dumbledore can speak Mermish and he advocates on behalf of both Hagrid and Madame Maxime, who are half-giant. Following the third task, Dumbledore's behavior in interrogating Barty Crouch shows Harry why people say that Voldemort is afraid of Dumbledore. He believes Harry's story without question and takes it upon himself to tell Fudge that both Harry and Barty Crouch were telling the truth. He also makes it clear to Fudge that in order to prepare for Voldemort's return, it's essential to invite the giants into the Wizarding World and give them their rights. At the beginning and end of the Tournament, Dumbledore makes it clear that the main purpose of the event is to foster understanding and friendships among the different schools. He insists that this is the only way to combat Voldemort, who is successful because he makes people feel as though they can't trust each other.

Rita Skeeter – A notorious journalist for the *Daily Prophet*. She's known for writing sensationalist news articles that do nothing but stir up trouble. Skeeter always wears robes in shocking colors and is usually accompanied by her photographer. When Harry meets her at the first Triwizard Tournament event, he learns that her articles take the form they do because she uses a [Quick-Quotes Quill](#), which elaborates on what an interview subject says and turns her articles into fantastical pieces that are barely fact. Following the first task, Dumbledore bans her from the school grounds, though this doesn't stop the articles. Skeeter is extremely vindictive and, when Harry refuses to give her interviews, she attacks him and Hermione through her writing. She insinuates that Harry is mentally unstable and turns people against Hermione by suggesting that she's playing with Harry's emotions. This infuriates Hermione, especially when Skeeter begins publishing information gleaned from private conversations to which she wasn't privy, and Hermione takes it upon herself to uncover how Skeeter is able to do this. Hermione eventually discovers that Skeeter is an unregistered

Animagus who can turn into a beetle, which is how she was able to sneak into Hogwarts to watch the tasks and interview Slytherin students who ally themselves with her. Hermione captures Skeeter while Harry is in the hospital wing and keeps her in her beetle form in a jar until they get to London. After this, Hermione threatens to spill Skeeter's secret if Skeeter doesn't take an entire year off from writing.

Viktor Krum – The Seeker for the Bulgarian Quidditch Team and, later, the Triwizard champion from the Wizarding school Durmstrang. Harry and Hermione's first introduction to Krum happens at the Quidditch World Cup, when Hermione notes that in the posters of him, Krum looks surly and unfriendly. Ron, however, idolizes Krum for his skill at flying and Harry comes to do the same. Though Krum is at home on a broomstick, he's awkward on the ground and in conversation with other people. He often stands alone and is generally unwilling to speak with the other champions. Ron's idolization of Krum starts to wane when he discovers at the Yule Ball that Krum and Hermione are romantically involved. Hermione finds Krum to be kind and is presumably attracted to him in part because he spends so much time in the library. Harry has no issue with Krum and Hermione seeing each other and comes to believe that Krum is a perfectly fine person when, after Krum ascertains that Harry and Hermione aren't involved, Krum compliments Harry's performance in the first task. Krum is attacked moments later, however, and spends the rest of the Tournament afraid, and with good reason: Barty Crouch, disguised as Moody, puts Krum under the Imperius Curse and forces him to perform the Cruciatus Curse on Cedric. Following the tournament, Krum shares with Harry that he liked Cedric and that Karkaroff was an incompetent headmaster. He invites Hermione to visit him in Bulgaria over the summer and signs a piece of parchment for Ron.

Cedric Diggory – The first Hogwarts champion; a sixth-year student in Hufflepuff House. Harry and most of his fellow Gryffindors believe that Cedric is brainless, if handsome, and they don't believe that he's a truly worthy person to represent Hogwarts. This isn't helped by Cedric's father, Amos Diggory, who, when Harry sees him at the Quidditch World Cup, makes it clear that he thinks Cedric is better than Harry. Over the course of the Tournament, Harry goes back and forth on whether or not he likes Cedric and whether he finds him honorable or not. This is mostly because Cedric begins dating Cho Chang, a girl whom Harry also has a crush on. Harry and Cedric help each other throughout the Tournament and during the third task, they work together to protect each other from Krum, who performs the Cruciatus Curse on Cedric, and a giant spider who tries to kill both of them. Cedric attempts to let Harry take the Triwizard Cup and win the Tournament, but he has no problem agreeing to take the cup together and make it a win for Hogwarts. However, this brings about Cedric's untimely death: the Cup is a Portkey and because Wormtail and

Voldemort don't need Cedric, Wormtail murders him. Cedric's ghost asks Harry to take his body back to Hogwarts. Later, at the final feast, Dumbledore insists that in order to properly honor Cedric's memory, every student must accept that Voldemort killed him for absolutely no reason.

Bertha Jorkins – Accounts differ in regards to the kind of person that Bertha Jorkins was, but it's known to the reader from the beginning of the novel that Voldemort murdered her not long before the story starts and that she was an employee at the Ministry. Strangely, nobody tries to look for her until months after her disappearance. Sirius knew Bertha when they were at school and remembers her as not particularly smart but with an exceptionally good memory for gossip, while Dumbledore remembers that she had a habit of getting herself into trouble by chasing after juicy gossip. Ministry officials, however, talk about Bertha as being comically forgetful and often remark that they expect her to eventually show up in a country with a name that could somehow be confused with Albania, where she was purportedly headed when she disappeared. From Barty Crouch, Harry and Dumbledore learn that twelve years ago, Bertha discovered Barty in Mr. Crouch's home and when she confronted Mr. Crouch about it, his Memory Charm made her forget what she saw--but it also permanently damaged her memory and likely contributed to her reputation as forgetful. Wormtail ran into Bertha in Albania while on the hunt for Voldemort and, to maintain his own cover, took her with him to find his master. After breaking through Mr. Crouch's Memory Charm, Voldemort murdered her.

Professor Snape – The potions master; he loathes Harry in particular and Gryffindor students in general. He's also the head of Slytherin House. Snape is especially cruel to Neville, his least favorite student, and spends much of the year threatening to poison Harry under the pretense of testing Harry's skill at brewing antidotes. Harry notices that Snape appears afraid of Moody and witnesses several instances throughout the year of Snape speaking with Karkaroff, sometimes on a first-name basis, about something growing clearer on his left arm. During Harry's trip into Dumbledore's Pensieve, he discovers that Snape was once a Death Eater and he later learns that Voldemort's Dark Mark is on Snape's left arm. However, Snape supposedly became a spy for Dumbledore, and Dumbledore makes it clear to Harry that he trusts Snape entirely. Harry struggles to believe this as Snape tries to accuse Harry on several occasions of putting his name in the Goblet of Fire and of breaking rules. Despite all of this, Snape does seem to be on Dumbledore's side when Voldemort returns and even shows Fudge his Dark Mark as proof that Voldemort has returned. When he learns that Sirius is allied with Dumbledore, Snape is livid but shakes hands with Sirius as Dumbledore requests.

Cornelius Fudge – The Minister of Magic. He's a short and portly man who, at the beginning of the novel, Harry believes is a kindly if bumbling sort of man. He greets Harry warmly at the

Quidditch World Cup and doesn't appear to bear any ill will towards the Weasleys, though he does think highly of the Malfoy family. However, after the third task, Harry learns that Fudge is obsessed with power and maintaining his position as Minister of Magic at all costs. Fudge refuses to believe Harry that Voldemort has returned and demonstrates how gullible he is when he doesn't deny that he came to this conclusion thanks to Rita Skeeter's articles. He also shows that he's prejudiced at several points throughout the novel, as when he suggests that Madame Maxime is to blame for attacking Viktor Krum (on account of Maxime being half-giant) and when he says that he doesn't trust Harry because Harry is a Parselmouth. Fudge makes it abundantly clear at the novel's close that what's most important to him is maintaining his own comfortable sense of reality and not allowing Dumbledore or Harry to disseminate the truth, as he promises to take control of Hogwarts and what Dumbledore teaches.

Percy Weasley – One of Ron's older brothers. Percy has always loved rules and being successful, and so he feels very important when he gets a job working for Mr. Crouch at the Ministry of Magic after Hogwarts. He takes his job very seriously and though he says some things that can be construed as dry jokes, he's a mostly humorless individual. He shows that he prioritizes his job over family when, following an article criticizing how Mr. Weasley dealt with the mayhem at the Quidditch World Cup, Percy suggests that Mr. Weasley made a mistake in speaking at all. As Harry, Ron, and Hermione learn more about Percy's boss, Mr. Crouch, Ron begins to see troubling similarities between the two and believes that Percy would prioritize rules over compassion for his family if forced to do so. However, Percy's obvious fear and concern during the second task, when Ron was underwater, suggests that Ron may be incorrect about this. When Mr. Crouch "falls ill," promotes Percy, and stops coming to work, Percy initially sees it as a reflection on his own competence. The responsibility begins to wear on him, however, especially as others begin to question whether or not Mr. Crouch is actually the one sending Percy instructions.

Fleur Delacour – The champion from Beauxbatons. She's a beautiful young woman whose beauty shocks many boys, including Ron. Harry later learns that this isn't the fault of the boys; her grandmother was a veela and the core of her wand is actually one of her grandmother's hairs. Though many young men admire her, Fleur never truly warms to Hogwarts. She complains about the weather, the food, and the subpar decorations throughout the year. Fleur spends the first half of the tournament looking down on Harry, but is extremely grateful to him when, during the second task, grindylow attacks make her unable to complete the task and rescue her sister Gabrielle. In all other cases, Fleur appears to be a perfectly competent young witch. She performs poorly in the third task only because Barty Crouch curses her, making it so she has no chance of winning. Harry notices that Fleur takes a liking to

Ron's older brother Bill right before the third task and at the end of school, Fleur explains that she's coming to England to work and improve her English.

Mrs. Weasley – Ron's mother. She's a short and plump witch who, more than anything, wants her seven children to grow up to be successful. However, it becomes clear when Harry arrives at the Burrow that Mrs. Weasley has a very narrow definition of what "success" means for a young witch or wizard, as she's thrilled with Bill, Charlie, and Percy--all of whom did well in school and now hold respectable jobs working for others--and not at all happy with Fred and George, who want to open a joke shop. Though Harry and Ron hear little from her for most of the school year, the way that she treats Hermione after Rita Skeeter's *Witch Weekly* article insisting that Hermione is toying with Harry's affections suggests that she takes everything she reads as truth. She doesn't re-warm to Hermione until Harry tells her outright that Hermione isn't his girlfriend. Mrs. Weasley steps into a parental role for Harry, hosting him for the last two weeks of the summer holidays and then coming to the final Triwizard Tournament task like other champions' parents.

Madame Maxime – The headmistress of Beauxbatons Academy; a beautiful olive-skinned witch who's as tall as Hagrid. Though she denies it at first, Maxime is half giant. She keeps this a secret because, like Hagrid, she knows that having giant blood means that many people will fear her and believe that she's violent like true giants are. Madame Maxime is extremely upset when Harry's name comes out of the Goblet of Fire, as she believes that someone wants Hogwarts to have extra chances to win. This suggests that, at least when it comes to competitions like the Triwizard Tournament, she prioritizes winning over all else. Harry learns in the lead-up to the first task that Maxime isn't above cheating, as he understands that she's going to tell Fleur about the dragons. Hagrid develops feelings for Maxime as soon as she arrives at Hogwarts and courts her until the Yule Ball, when she insists she's not half-giant. After the third task, Hagrid insinuates that she's going to join him on a mission for Dumbledore.

Winky – At the beginning of the novel, Winky is Mr. Crouch's house-elf. She takes her job seriously and lectures Harry on the proper way for a house-elf to behave--a house-elf, in her opinion, does as they're told and keeps their master's secrets. Because of this, she looks down on Dobby, a free elf who wants to be paid. Hours later, when Mr. Crouch fires Winky, it seems to Hermione that her firing was unjust and unprompted, but the reader later learns that for the last twelve years, Winky had been caring for Barty Crouch and was tasked with keeping him in the tent, which she failed to do. Later in the fall she and Dobby take jobs in the Hogwarts kitchens. Winky never adjusts to life outside the Crouch home. She neglects her clothes, remains loyal to the Crouch family, refuses payment, and continues to lecture Harry and Hermione about how house-

elves should behave. Eventually she turns to butterbeer, which is extremely strong for a house-elf, and becomes an alcoholic.

Neville Longbottom – One of Harry's fourth-year Gryffindor classmates. Neville is kind, though he's generally considered to be a hopeless student: he's often the only one assigned extra homework, and Potions is his worst subject. This is because he's deathly afraid of Snape, the potions master. However, Neville is well aware of what he doesn't know. Harry is surprised when Neville raises his hand in Moody's first Defense Against the Dark Arts class about the Unforgivable Curses and names the Cruciatus Curse. Seeing Moody perform the Cruciatus Curse on a spider has an awful effect on Neville; he becomes anxious and unable to hold a conversation. Harry learns later that this is because Neville has personal experience with the Cruciatus Curse: after Voldemort's fall, Death Eaters tortured Neville's parents with the curse until they went insane. They now live in St. Mungo's Hospital and don't recognize Neville.

Dobby – A house-elf whom Harry freed two years ago. Dobby used to work for the Malfoys, who abused him. Dobby wants to work for pay, get time off, and wear clothes, all things that other house-elves believe are uncouth and improper. Though Dobby is happy when Dumbledore employs him at Hogwarts, he does recognize that he's an outlier and is instrumental in explaining to Harry and Hermione that Winky, another freed house-elf, isn't adjusting to freedom. Similarly, while he's something of a poster child for Hermione's organization S.P.E.W., Dobby doesn't want everything that Hermione thinks he should have (like a pension or a higher salary) and realizes that most house-elves are happy in their posts. He adores Harry, as Harry was the person who orchestrated Dobby's freedom, and to repay Harry's kindness he helps Harry with the second Triwizard Tournament task. Because Dobby loves socks, especially mismatched ones, Harry buys Dobby socks to thank him.

Draco Malfoy – Harry's archenemy at Hogwarts; a wealthy blond Slytherin student in the fourth year. Malfoy is a privileged boy who understands that, because of his father's wealth and prestige, he can in many cases get whatever he wants. He's a skilled and sneaky bully and bullies anyone he doesn't like, student or teacher alike. He finds an ally in the journalist Rita Skeeter, as she also takes it upon herself to bully people by writing sensationalist articles about them, and Malfoy gives a number of interviews discrediting Harry, Hagrid, and Hermione. Malfoy also shows at several points that he plans to follow his father, Lucius Malfoy, and support Voldemort: he threatens Hermione with violence on behalf of the Death Eaters the night of the Quidditch World Cup and, following Voldemort's return, he insists that Voldemort will win this time around.

Professor Karkaroff – The headmaster of Durmstrang, a school of magic in Eastern Europe. Karkaroff wears sleek furs and openly favors Viktor Krum over all of his other students.

Harry describes Karkaroff as "fruity" and as having an "unctuous" voice, which makes Harry suspicious of Karkaroff from the start. Karkaroff appears afraid of Professor Moody and Harry later learns that this is because Karkaroff used to be a Death Eater and spent time in Azkaban with Sirius. When Harry takes a trip into Dumbledore's Pensieve, he has the opportunity to watch Karkaroff's trial in front of Mr. Crouch where Karkaroff accuses many people of being Death Eaters, including Snape. For this reason, when Voldemort summons his Death Eaters, Karkaroff runs away rather than obey the call--he put many of Voldemort's supporters in Azkaban and fears retaliation.

Fred Weasley – One of the Weasley twins. As far as anyone else is concerned, he and George are middling students and don't take their education seriously--they did poorly on their O.W.L.s last year, which proves this to Mrs. Weasley. However, as they begin to develop joke wands and candies with the hope of starting a joke shop called Weasley's Wizard Wheezes, Ron and Ginny are surprised at how good the twins actually are. Fred and George bet their entire savings on the outcome of the Quidditch World Cup with Ludo Bagman and spend most of the novel trying to make him follow through on the bet--he initially paid them back in leprechaun gold and later refused to even refund their money. Harry gives Fred and George his Triwizard Tournament winnings on the Hogwarts Express at the end of school so they can start their joke shop.

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Mr. Weasley – Ron's father; a Ministry employee in the Misuse of Muggle Artifacts office. He loves Muggles and Muggle culture, especially the technology they use to replace magic, like electricity. A kind man, Mr. Weasley insists that Vernon say goodbye to Harry when he picks Harry up during the summer and is aghast when Fred and George trick Dudley into eating Ton-Tongue Toffees. He's also somewhat afraid of Mrs. Weasley and her temper, given that he seems to have never intended to tell her about this incident. For his part, he doesn't support Fred and George's dreams of opening a joke shop either, though he's not as vocal about his displeasure as his wife is. Mr. Weasley's interpretation of Rita Skeeter's post-

Quidditch World Cup article suggests that he has well-developed critical thinking skills and knows how to critically evaluate the newspaper.

Amos Diggory – Cedric Diggory's father and the head of the Department for the Control and Regulation of Magical Creatures. He's proud of Cedric and expresses it in a way that embarrasses Cedric; the few times that Harry meets Mr. Diggory, he speaks as though he's obsessed with pointing out the ways in which Cedric is better and Harry is inferior. He also shows that he's willing to jump to conclusions, as when he accuses the house-elf Winky of conjuring the Dark Mark, thereby accusing Mr. Crouch of teaching her to do so. The way he speaks to Winky (he calls her "elf" and uses a stern voice) suggests that he doesn't think highly of the creatures that answer to his department.

Mr. Roberts – The Muggle who owns one of the campsites used for the Quidditch World Cup. He gives Ministry officials a lot of grief before the Cup and he requires multiple Memory Charms every day to keep him from getting suspicious, though they note that Ludo Bagman's unwillingness to watch his language and not use Wizarding words in front of Mr. Roberts doesn't help. The night after the game, Death Eaters torment Mr. Roberts and his family by levitating them high in the air and exposing his wife's underwear. Mr. Weasley later shares that he and other Ministry officials were able to get the entire Roberts family down safely and modify their memories, though Harry notes that Mr. Roberts seems unusually dreamy and out of it the next day.

Peter Pettigrew/Wormtail – A small, rodent-like man who, in June of the last school year, came out of hiding as a rat and left to rejoin Voldemort. Though his real name is Peter Pettigrew, most people refer to him in the novel as Wormtail. He spends most of the novel caring for the disgusting humanoid body of Voldemort and, according to Voldemort, is responsible for giving him both the weak initial body and returning him to the body he had before his downfall thirteen years ago. In order to resurrect Voldemort, Wormtail cuts off his own hand and is later rewarded with a magical silver hand. Though Wormtail does go along with Voldemort, he suggests at several points that they proceed with Voldemort's plan without killing Harry.

Lucius Malfoy – Draco Malfoy's father. Mr. Malfoy is extremely powerful and well-respected in the Wizarding community and at the Ministry, though this is mostly because he donates money to a number of causes. Harry, Ron, Hermione, and the Weasleys know that Mr. Malfoy is untrustworthy, corrupt, and obsessed with status: he sneers at Hermione, who is Muggle-born, and insults the Weasleys about their economic status. Harry discovers upon Voldemort's return that his suspicions that Mr. Malfoy is a Death Eater were correct; Voldemort confirms that Mr. Malfoy led the group that tormented the Roberts family at the Quidditch World Cup, while Mr. Malfoy's presence in the graveyard indicates that he's still committed to

Voldemort's cause.

Professor McGonagall – Head of Gryffindor House and the Transfiguration teacher. McGonagall is a stern and often curt witch who demands excellence and good behavior from all of her students. Harry begins to see a more caring side to her during the three Triwizard tasks, as she makes sure to check in on Harry and see that he's okay. She trusts Dumbledore and Harry and because of this, she loses her temper several times: first when Karkaroff and Madame Maxime suggest that Dumbledore let Harry put his name in the Goblet of Fire, and then again when Cornelius Fudge refuses to believe Harry and Dumbledore that Voldemort has returned.

Frank Bryce – An old Muggle man who's been the caretaker at the Riddle House for decades. He fought in World War II and because of this, he has a limp. He was accused and arrested when the Riddle family was murdered but when the police couldn't discover a cause of death, they set Frank free. In the present, Frank continues to maintain the grounds of the Riddle House and wages war against the local village boys who cruelly break windows and mess up the lawn. Voldemort kills Frank when Frank notices a fire in the old house and believes that the local boys set it.

Uncle Vernon – Harry's Muggle uncle. He loves making Harry unhappy but because he hates having Harry around even more, he allows Harry to attend the Quidditch World Cup and leave his home early. He also lives in fear that Harry is going to tell Sirius that he's unhappy, as Harry shares that Sirius is an escaped convict but doesn't tell Vernon that Sirius is innocent. Vernon loses his temper when Mr. Weasley is late picking Harry up for the World Cup and destroys his living room, and when Dudley eats Fred's Ton-Tongue Toffee.

Professor Trelawney – The Hogwarts Divination professor. She wears shawls and lots of jewelry that makes her look like an insect, and she works hard to make herself sound mysterious and all-knowing. Though Harry doesn't take most of Trelawney's predictions seriously (mostly because Trelawney predicts Harry's death on a weekly basis), he begins to suspect that there's more to her than he initially thought when her prediction from his last school year comes true: Voldemort returns after his servant, Wormtail, breaks free.

Moaning Myrtle – A Hogwarts ghost; she was a student who died in a bathroom because she saw a basilisk while Tom Riddle (later Voldemort) was at school. She spends most of her time in the bathroom where she died, though she does imply to Harry that she spies on male students in the Prefects' bathroom. When Harry uses the Prefects' bathroom to prepare for the second task, Myrtle shares what Cedric did to figure out the egg and guides Harry in interpreting the egg's riddle.

Bill Weasley – The oldest Weasley brother. He works for Gringotts Bank as a treasure hunter, which means he has a great deal of freedom in terms of how he dresses—he has a long

ponytail and an earring with a fang on it, both of which bother Mrs. Weasley. He's also extremely kind to Harry and even accompanies his mother to take on the role of family members and watch Harry in the third task.

Ollivander – A wand-maker based in Diagon Alley. He attends and presides over the Weighing of the Wands ceremony for the Triwizard Tournament, in which he checks the Champions' wands to make sure they're in good working order. Though Ollivander deems all the wands in good condition and safe for use, he favors the wands he made himself (Harry's and Cedric's) over wands made by others.

Professor Grubbly-Plank – A Care of Magical Creatures professor who takes over Hagrid's class when he removes himself from teaching. She's curt and refuses to tell students where Hagrid is. However, her lessons are far more enjoyable than Hagrid's, especially for female students: she teaches the class about unicorns, which are most comfortable around women.

Aunt Petunia – Harry's aunt. Though she's spent most of her life insisting that her son Dudley is big-boned and a gentle giant, this summer forces her to confront the truth: Dudley's school nurse insists that he needs to go on a diet to lose weight. To try to make Dudley feel better, Petunia insists that everyone in the house observe the diet as well. She's distraught when Dudley eats one of Fred's Ton-Tongue Toffees.

Dudley Dursley – Harry's cousin. When his marks come from school, the nurse includes a note saying that Dudley is overweight and must lose weight so that he can fit into his uniform, which results in Petunia enforcing a strict diet for most of the summer. Though Dudley has always been mean to Harry and unpleasant in general, he becomes even unhappier and nastier in general without any food or sweets.

Ginny Weasley – Ron's younger sister; she's a third-year in Gryffindor. She's had a crush on Harry since she first met him three years ago and blushes every time she sees him. She agrees to go to the Yule Ball with Neville so she has the chance to go (it's open to fourth years and higher, though younger students can attend if invited) and tries to stand up for Neville and Hermione when Ron and Harry make fun of them.

Cho Chang – A pretty Ravenclaw student in the fifth year. Harry has a crush on her for most of the novel, though he only acts on it around Christmastime when he asks her to the Yule Ball. Cho, however, attends the ball with Cedric. While this is a hard blow for Harry, Cho is nice about turning Harry down and doesn't laugh at him for trying.

MINOR CHARACTERS

Lee Jordan – The Weasley twins' friend and business partner. Like Fred and George Lee is a jokester, and he participates in the twins' development of joke products. Fred and George later share with Harry that Lee's father has had dealings with Ludo

Bagman that didn't end well.

Parvati Patil – A fourth-year Gryffindor student who attends the Yule Ball with Harry. She isn't kind to Hermione and seems personally offended that Hermione can make herself look pretty. Parvati is especially upset when Harry doesn't pay her much attention at the ball.

Frank Longbottom – Neville's father. He used to be an Auror and after Voldemort's fall, he and his wife were tortured by Death Eaters for information on Voldemort's whereabouts. In the present he and his wife are insane and live in St. Mungo's hospital, where they don't recognize Neville.

Lily Potter – Harry's mother. She died rather than let Voldemort kill Harry and Harry meets her when her shadow comes out of Voldemort's wand during the duel in the graveyard. Her sacrifice meant that Voldemort couldn't touch Harry, an obstacle that Voldemort sidesteps by using Harry's blood to resurrect himself.

James Potter – Harry's father. He died trying to protect Lily and Harry when Harry was a year old. Harry meets him when his shadow comes out of Voldemort's wand during the duel in the graveyard.

Charlie Weasley – One of Ron's oldest brothers. He works with dragons in Romania and is one of the dragon-tamers for the first task. Like Bill, Charlie has a sense of humor and doesn't take Percy seriously.

The Sorting Hat – The sentient hat that sorts new students into the four Hogwarts Houses. It writes a new song every year to sing to the school before it sorts students.

Filch – The Hogwarts caretaker. He and his cat, Mrs. Norris, love to catch students out of bed and punish them. His goal in life is to find some reason to convince Dumbledore to evict Peeves from the castle.

Padma Patil – Parvati's twin sister in Ravenclaw. She accompanies Ron to the Yule Ball, though she doesn't decide that Ron is interesting or attractive until after Ron's moment of fame due to his participation in the second task.

Fawkes – Dumbledore's phoenix. He gave two tail feathers to Ollivander many years ago. Though Harry knew already that his wand shared a core with Voldemort's, he learns this year that Fawkes's tail feathers are the ones in his wand and Voldemort's wand.

Professor Flitwick – The Charms professor. He's thrilled when Harry uses a charm from his curriculum, the Summoning Charm, during the first challenge of the Triwizard Tournament.

Nagini – Voldemort's giant snake. He and Wormtail use Nagini's venom to feed Voldemort when he's in his small humanoid form.

Madam Pomfrey – The Hogwarts nurse. She takes great offense to the Triwizard Tournament out of concern for

students' health, especially after the dementors last year.

Professor Binns – The History of Magic professor at Hogwarts. He's a ghost and his lessons are exceedingly boring.

Madam Rosmerta – The owner and bartender at the Three Broomsticks pub in Hogsmeade.

Gabrielle – Fleur's little sister. Harry rescues her from the lake when Fleur doesn't arrive to save her herself.

Remus Lupin – The Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher last year. He sends Moody a letter detailing what material the students have covered already.

Nearly Headless Nick – The Gryffindor ghost. He often wears a ruff that keeps his head straight on his neck, as his beheading wasn't entirely successful.

Dennis Creevy – Colin Creevy's little brother. He's a first-year and, like Colin, admires Harry.

Seamus Finnigan – One of Harry and Ron's fellow fourth-year Gryffindor classmates.

Dean Thomas – One of Harry and Ron's fellow fourth-year Gryffindor classmates.

Colin Creevy – A small third-year boy in Gryffindor who admires Harry.

Professor Sprout – The Herbology professor and the head of Hufflepuff.

Lavender Brown – Parvati Patil's friend, a fellow fourth-year Gryffindor.

The Fat Lady – The lady whose portrait guards Gryffindor Tower.

Pigwidgeon – Ron's owl. He's the size of a tennis ball and very excitable.

Crabbe – One of Malfoy's cronies.

Goyle – One of Malfoy's cronies.

Peeves – The Hogwarts poltergeist.

Fang – Hagrid's boarhound.

Crookshanks – Hermione's fluffy orange cat.

Tom Riddle – Voldemort's father and namesake.

Angelina Johnson A Hogwarts student in Gryffindor. She plays on the house quidditch team.

Pansy Parkinson A student in Slytherin house.

Neville's grandmother A tough, no-nonsense woman, who raised Neville after his parents were tortured into insanity by Death Eaters.



THEMES

In LitCharts literature guides, each theme gets its own color-coded icon. These icons make it easy to track where the themes

occur most prominently throughout the work. If you don't have a color printer, you can still use the icons to track themes in black and white.



HISTORY, COMMUNITY, AND COMING OF AGE

As the midway point of the Harry Potter series, *Goblet of Fire* sees Harry on the cusp of coming of age: while he's described as a boy in the early chapters of the novel, by the end of his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry finally transitions from a boy to a man. While much of this shift has to do with how Harry and his friends mature personally, even more of it has to do with learning about the wider Wizarding world. Harry and his friends attend the Quidditch World Cup, participate in the Triwizard Tournament (a competition between three European schools of magic), and Harry himself finally sees the Dark Lord Voldemort return to his body--all things that establish Harry as a young adult in the Wizarding world. Taken together, all of this suggests that a natural and essential part of coming of age is discovering one's wider community; exploring that community's history and the ways in which history influences the present; and finally, beginning to think about how one fits into that community.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione's experiences at the Quidditch World Cup illustrate just how young and sheltered all three are in terms of knowing about their world--even though Ron was raised in it. The World Cup exposes the protagonists to a global community of wizards, as well as the wider history of the Wizarding world, which shows the trio what exactly they'll become a part of as they mature and come of age. For Hermione, meeting the house-elf Winky at the World Cup introduces her to some of the less savory parts of the Wizarding world, while Harry is shocked to see that the Wizarding world actually includes the *whole* world, not just Hogwarts and the UK. He first marvels that it never occurred to him that this would be the case, and after he makes the revelation, he thinks it should've been obvious that there are wizards worldwide.

Ron, on the other hand, introduces the idea that part of growing up and becoming part of the Wizarding world means learning about and grappling with Wizarding history, especially in terms of Voldemort's relatively recent history. When Mr. Weasley herds the trio back to the tent after Voldemort's Dark Mark is sent up into the sky, Ron expresses confusion and says, "it's still only a shape in the sky." As Mr. Weasley goes on to explain, the Dark Mark isn't just "a shape in the sky"--for wizards who remember Voldemort's time of power, it signals death and terror. This is something that, as the novel progresses, Harry and other young people must learn. In doing so, they begin to develop empathy for older generations as well as understand that their world is complex and dangerous--it doesn't end at the Hogwarts boundary, and there is evil in the

world that not even Dumbledore can protect them from.

Harry continues to learn about the wider Wizarding world thanks to the Triwizard Tournament, a competition between three European schools--Hogwarts, Durmstrang, and Beauxbatons--that hasn't taken place for years but is resurrected during Harry's fourth year. The tournament directly exposes Harry to students from all over Europe (it's implied that Beauxbatons is a French school, while Durmstrang is located somewhere in Eastern Europe), once again reminding him that the Wizarding world is a global community comprised of people from all walks of life. Dumbledore tells the students outright that the purpose of the competition is to foster international relations and friendship, something he believes is important all the time but is especially important in light of the growing evidence that Voldemort will soon return to power. Indeed, after the Tournament's culmination in which Cedric Diggory, a Hogwarts Champion, is killed by a newly resurrected Voldemort, Dumbledore tells the students that the only effective way to fight Voldemort is by trusting each other and keeping their relationships alive. Voldemort's power stems from his ability to make the Wizarding world feel small, untrustworthy, and isolated, rather than large, supportive, and connected. This suggests that what Harry learns about his larger community over the course of his fourth year directly prepares him to go on to fight Voldemort in the future, and therefore is essential for his coming of age.

In addition to learning about the Wizarding world as a whole, Harry and his classmates also begin to think about what adult life as a wizard in the UK might look like for them. Their examples of what is possible include recent Hogwarts graduate Percy Weasley, who gets his first job as a clerk at the Ministry of Magic over the summer, as well as the two oldest Weasley brothers, Bill (who works for Gringotts Bank) and Charlie (who works with dragons). Professor Moody, noting Harry and Hermione's developing critical thinking skills, suggests that they think about careers as Aurors (Dark Wizard catchers). Fred and George, meanwhile, spend the year developing joke wands and candies with the hope of starting a business selling their goods, and Harry even gives them his Triwizard Tournament winnings to fund the endeavor.

All of these things begin to offer Harry, Hermione, Ron, and the Weasley twins a way to enter into the world, while also reinforcing, especially for young people like Harry and Hermione who didn't grow up in the Wizarding world, that there is a multitude of different ways forward--and not all of them involve the Ministry. When Harry generously gives the Weasley twins his Triwizard winnings, he tells them that their joke shop will be especially needed to provide everyone some comic relief, given Voldemort's return. Harry's comment suggests that he now understands his community's history enough to conceptualize how he and others might become contributing members in their society--especially in one that

appears as though it's going to look much like the recent past.



EMPATHY AND LOVE

As Harry, Ron, and Hermione come of age during their fourth year at Hogwarts, they begin to experience many "firsts" of puberty: they tackle romance and romantic jealousy for the first time, both of which seriously strain their friendships. However, as Harry progresses through the Tournament tasks, watches Hermione and Ron bicker, and learns important information about his classmates, he begins to realize that, in terms of emotional maturity, developing a sense of empathy for and curiosity about others is one of the best things he can learn--and if he learns these skills, his friendships will benefit.

As soon as the Goblet of Fire sends out Harry's name, naming him the fourth Champion, Harry feels young and inferior in comparison to the other three Champions. Fleur, Krum, and Cedric appear impossibly mature: Krum and Cedric are handsome and look like adult men, while Fleur is described as a physically mature young woman. However, though Harry fixates on this sense of physical inferiority, he demonstrates compassion and caring for his fellow competitors that, in terms of emotional development and empathy, place him far ahead of the other three. Harry shares with Cedric that the first task will be taking on dragons, which he chooses to do after he realizes that Cedric will be the only Champion in the dark about what the first task entails. Then, during the second task, Harry chooses to remain underwater until all four Champions' kidnapped loved ones have been saved, and even insists on saving Fleur's little sister, Gabrielle, when Fleur doesn't arrive to save her herself. Though this sense of caring for his fellow competitors ends up being Cedric's downfall when the third task goes awry, it's telling that the Hogwarts champions choose to win together--this indicates that both of them, over the course of the Tournament, have learned the value of caring for each other and behaving in unselfish ways.

In contrast to the compassion and empathy that Harry develops in regards to his competitors, the arguments caused by the onset of pubescent romantic desire in Harry, Ron, and Hermione illustrate that empathy and understanding aren't skills that individuals acquire all at once. While Hermione puts Dumbledore's words about the Tournament being about building relationships into practice by attending the Yule Ball with Viktor Krum, Ron explodes with jealousy and rage at both Krum and Hermione in a manner that's wildly immature and, given his reasoning, incredibly selfish: he insists that Hermione is "fraternizing with the enemy," a statement that suggests that Ron doesn't view Krum as an individual worthy of respect, consideration, or even a fun evening with a girl who happens to be Ron's friend.

Harry's defining moment in terms of developing empathy for others and, specifically, learning how empathy can and will

positively impact his friendships, comes after he takes an accidental trip into Dumbledore's Pensieve, which allows Harry to view some of Dumbledore's memories and reveals important facts about Neville. Through his experience in the Pensieve and his conversation with Dumbledore afterward, Harry learns that Neville lives with his grandmother because his parents, who were active members of the resistance against Voldemort, were tortured by Voldemort's followers and are now insane. After learning this, it occurs to Harry that he never thought to ask Neville anything about his home life, his parents, or his grandmother. In particular, the way that Harry frames this as being about his own failures--the issue isn't that Neville never chose to share, it's that *Harry* never asked--represents a major leap for Harry, as it indicates that Harry recognizes that his peers are multifaceted and complex individuals with meaningful pasts, just like him--and that if he can go on to be more curious about his peers, his friendly relationships with those peers have the potential to turn into actual friendships.

The experience of seeing Voldemort return and, in particular, seeing Peter Pettigrew kill Cedric during the third task impresses upon Harry that behaving selfishly in his thoughts and actions isn't possible if he wishes to effectively confront Voldemort in the future. The arbitrary nature of Cedric's death shows Harry that even though he is special and has a unique connection to Voldemort, he's by no means the only one at risk with Voldemort in power--other people may die or suffer horrific fates, as Cedric does and Neville's parents did. With this, Harry makes his final leap to understanding the power of empathy and by bringing Cedric's body back to his family per his ghost's request, Harry demonstrates that going forward, he will fight Voldemort's evil not with age or with skill, but with kindness and empathy for his friends and peers.



READING, CRITICAL THINKING, AND TRUTH

For Hermione, coming of age has as much to do with her journey to learning to read critically and think critically about authority figures as it does her physical passage from childhood to adulthood. In *Goblet of Fire*, Hermione learns about the existence of house-elves at Hogwarts, which impresses upon her that books don't tell an objective version of the truth--her favorite book, [Hogwarts: A History](#), says nothing about the school's house-elves. This, combined with the way in which Harry, Ron, and Hermione learn to handle the outrageous articles written by sensationalist journalist Rita Skeeter, impresses upon them the importance of being skeptical of what they read, reading between the lines, and understanding that books and newspapers don't always express a complete truth and thus should be questioned.

Hermione begins her fourth year at Hogwarts already aware that rules and official texts aren't always true or correct--

discovering that Sirius Black, James Potter, and Peter Pettigrew were unregistered Animagi (wizards who can transform into animals at will) impressed upon her that just because a rule exists, it doesn't mean that everyone will follow it. However, she arrives at school still trusting books and other print media to tell a complete version of the truth. When Hermione discovers that house-elves work at Hogwarts without pay, she realizes that her favorite reference text on the school, *Hogwarts: A History*, doesn't mention this at all. After having this realization, Hermione darkly suggests that the book should be called "*A Highly Biased and Selective History of Hogwarts, Which Glosses Over the Nastier Aspects of the School.*" This becomes an earth-shattering moment for Hermione in which she's forced to understand that a book she once took as ultimate truth actually just represents one author's biased thoughts and beliefs about the school. In other words, she learns that she must think critically about what she reads and, most importantly, evaluate the source and the context of what she reads in addition to the text itself.

This new way of reading critically becomes especially useful when the journalist Rita Skeeter arrives at Hogwarts to cover the Triwizard Tournament. Harry first learns about Rita Skeeter and her reputation the day after the Quidditch World Cup, when Skeeter's article about the mayhem caused by Death Eaters runs in the *Daily Prophet*. It's telling, first of all, that Mr. Weasley reads what she wrote in the paper (that Ministry officials refused to comment on rumors about dead bodies) and comments that, by mentioning rumors about bodies, Skeeter effectively creates the rumors. In actuality there were no bodies and, as far as Mr. Weasley knows, no rumors either until after the article runs. This suggests that Skeeter is aware that people like Hermione, who know how to think critically, are outliers in the Wizarding world. She understands that the truth of what she writes matters much less than the fact that her writing is published in an important news publication, which people then believe they should take seriously.

When Rita Skeeter covers the Triwizard Tournament, she does the exact same thing writing about Harry. To make things more dramatic, she uses her [Quick Quotes Quill](#), which takes notes for her during interviews and embellishes what people say, turning their words into dramatic articles that only barely allude to the truth. After Skeeter's first interview with Harry--which was supposed to supplement an article about the Triwizard Tournament and all the Champions but instead focused entirely on Harry and misspelled the other Champions' names--Harry refuses to speak to her again, and Dumbledore bans her from the school grounds. However, Skeeter continues to publish article after article suggesting that Harry and Hermione are romantically involved, that Harry is mentally unstable, and outing Hagrid as being a half-giant. Though Harry and Ron don't have the same earth-shattering experience that Hermione does to introduce them to the concept of reading

critically, because they know that what Skeeter writes isn't true and yet observe many others taking Skeeter's writing seriously, they also come to many of the same conclusions regarding the importance of carefully evaluating news sources for ulterior motives or dramatic embellishment.

When, in the aftermath of the disastrous third task, Harry comes face to face with Cornelius Fudge who refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned, Harry truly starts to understand the far more sinister power of Skeeter's writing and of the news media as a whole. Thanks to months of news coverage that makes Harry seem mentally unstable and therefore unbelievable and untrustworthy, Fudge refuses to listen to Harry when he says that Voldemort has returned to his body and will promptly begin a second rise to power. Fudge's refusal to evaluate what Harry says, especially in light of the mysterious and troubling events that have taken place over the last year, means that Fudge is at a distinct disadvantage when it inevitably comes to fighting Voldemort in the future. Harry, Ron, and Hermione, on the other hand, are in a much better position to organize and make a meaningful impact in the fight against evil, given that they have the skills to think critically and know to evaluate what they read, whether they're reading books, newspapers, or any other form of print media. Though this divide between unthinking belief and critical analysis doesn't resolve until much later in the series, the fact that the novel ends not with Voldemort's rise but with the question of whether or not Harry's story of Voldemort's rise will be believed suggests that the best thing a person can do to prepare themselves to be an effective member of society is to learn to think critically and carefully evaluate one's sources.



ACTIVISM AND DIVERSITY

When Hermione discovers that Hogwarts functions thanks to a small army of house-elves--small elves that secretly perform all the domestic labor at the school but aren't paid for their work--she immediately jumps into action and forms S.P.E.W., or the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare. She does this without consulting the elves themselves, however, and the elves are much less excited about her crusade for their liberation than Hermione is. However, the novel also introduces the reader to a number of other non-human creatures who would appreciate the kind of help and activism that Hermione espouses, including the giants (which Dumbledore says want rights and recognition) and goblins (which are discriminated against throughout the novel). In this way, *Goblet of Fire* sheds light on the prejudice existing in the Wizarding world that ideally could be helped through the activism of someone like Hermione, while also illustrating how activists like Hermione will never be successful unless they listen to the individuals they'd like to help.

Though S.P.E.W. isn't the trio's first introduction to house-elves,

this is the first time that Hermione comes into close contact with them. She becomes enraged when she meets Winky, a house-elf who serves Ministry official Mr. Crouch, in the top box at the Quidditch World Cup. Winky is deathly afraid of heights, yet the binding rules surrounding house-elves and their masters mean that she has no ability to go against Mr. Crouch and is instead forced to remain in a situation that terrifies her. As far as Hermione is concerned, this abuse is unacceptable. This view intensifies when, after the Death Eaters begin setting tents on fire in the night hours after the match, Hermione sees Winky struggling to walk through the forest away from the danger--Mr. Crouch told her to stay in the tent and therefore, Winky is disobeying by trying to protect herself. Hermione then witnesses Mr. Crouch fire Winky in a cruel and dramatic fashion. All of this impresses upon Hermione that Wizarding society isn't as just as she might have once thought. As she learns about house-elves, she discovered that this kind of unpaid labor is commonly found in wealthy Wizarding families, like the Malfoys and the Crouches. However, as Hermione moves to create S.P.E.W., the novel suggests that Hermione's big oversight is shaping her activism around Winky and Dobby's (who used to serve the Malfoys and was abused by the family) experiences in private homes.

Upon arriving at Hogwarts and discovering that there are also house-elves at school, Hermione quickly develops S.P.E.W., through which she begins to campaign for Elfish liberation, fair working conditions, and representation at the Ministry of Magic. Hermione does this, however, without consulting the house-elves themselves. While Dobby loves his freedom from the Malfoys and delights in the fact that Dumbledore is willing to pay him and give him days off, he's an outlier--and he knows it. The majority of the elves in the kitchen appear happy to serve and forcibly eject Hermione from the kitchen when she starts to talk about their current oppression and future liberation. On the other end of the spectrum, Winky remains loyal to Mr. Crouch months after being fired and never adjusts to her "freedom"--indeed, she eventually turns to butterbeer, which is extremely intoxicating for house-elves, and regularly drinks to excess.

Through all of this, Hermione continues to insist that house-elves need to be liberated and deserve pay like anyone else. Though the reader is encouraged to sympathize with the house-elves and their plight, especially at the hands of wizards like Lucius Malfoy and Mr. Crouch, it's also important to note that Hermione actively ignores what the very beings she's trying to liberate are telling her: that they don't need or want her help. This all suggests that though Hermione might have the right idea--Winky's mistreatment in *Goblet of Fire* and Dobby's earlier mistreatment by the Malfoys are proof of this--campaigning on behalf of all house-elves for total liberation isn't an appropriate avenue for an outsider like Hermione to take. Instead, to be truly successful, the novel suggests she'd be

better off listening to what they *do* want, if anything, and helping them achieve those goals.

In addition to introducing the reader to the plight of the house-elves, *Goblet of Fire* also introduces several other non-human creatures that are peripheral parts of the Wizarding world, including goblins and giants. In particular, the revelation that Hagrid's mother is a giantess and Ron's explanation as to why Hagrid never chose to share that information offers more insight into how the Wizarding world treats its non-human members. Ron explains to Harry that giants are nasty, violent creatures who are known for their cruelty and, in the years after Voldemort's fall from power, have all gone into hiding in faraway mountains. As Harry mentions, anyone who knows Hagrid as a kind and compassionate person won't care about his parentage, but this doesn't mean that the rest of the world won't discriminate against him or treat him differently.

When Fudge and Dumbledore discuss Voldemort's impending rise to power, Dumbledore advocates for even more inclusion in the Wizarding world. He insists that if Fudge wants to be able to most effectively fight Voldemort, he needs to send envoys to the giants before Voldemort does, as Dumbledore believes that Voldemort will promise the giants that he's the only wizard willing to recognize them as true members of society. This suggests, first of all, that there are non-human creatures in the Wizarding world who do want to be a real part of society and want to be recognized as such. Second, Dumbledore's warning indicates that it's essential to embrace non-human beings, give them their rights, and create a society that will accept them and treat them as equals--for if the wizards currently in power do not, others with less righteous goals will mobilize those marginalized communities for their own nefarious gain. This is where, in an ideal world, an activist like Hermione would come in, as someone like her would be able to campaign for giants' rights from the inside and, through doing so, create a more welcoming and united Wizarding world that would be capable of fighting together against true evil.



GOOD, EVIL, POWER, AND CHOICE

Though Harry has certainly grown up in unfortunate circumstances with the Dursleys and has suffered more than his fair share of abuse at their hands, the fact remains that he's still very fortunate in terms of finances and fame. Whether or he realizes it or not, this gives Harry a great deal of power to influence others. By comparing how Harry uses his fame and fortune to the ways in which other characters use theirs, *Goblet of Fire* suggests that while fame, fortune, and power don't automatically equate to good or evil, possessing fame or money means that a person much choose whether they'll actively use that power for good or evil.

While Harry, as the novel's protagonist, is undeniably a "good guy," there are also a number of indications that this status is a

matter of choice. Whether Harry truly realizes it or not, he has a great deal of privilege--his parents left him a small fortune, and his most prized possessions are extremely valuable magical objects (his Invisibility Cloak, his Firebolt racing broom, and the Marauder's Map). However, rather than choose to use these items and his money for his own gain, Harry overwhelmingly chooses to use these objects to help others and shares his wealth with his friends. In this way, it's telling not just that Harry gives away the thousand Galleons that he wins in the Triwizard Tournament to Fred and George; more indicative of Harry's goodness is that he asks them to use part of the money to buy Ron new dress robes, something that he knows will ease Ron's way going forward (his current robes, which are secondhand and dated, made the debacle that was the Yule Ball especially humiliating for Ron). With this, Harry demonstrates that he understands how his wealth and power have the potential to help people, and that doing so is extremely fulfilling.

There are a number of characters that exist in contrast to Harry in this way, most notably Mr. Crouch and Ludo Bagman. Harry gets his first indication that Mr. Crouch isn't particularly caring when he notices that Mr. Crouch still doesn't know Percy Weasley's name, despite the fact that Percy has been working for Mr. Crouch for several months at the start of the novel. Later, Sirius tells Harry, Ron, and Hermione that Mr. Crouch has been a big and powerful name at the Ministry for a long time and, at the time of Voldemort's defeat, was poised to become Minister of Magic. He made his name putting Death Eaters behind bars after Voldemort's fall--including both Sirius and Mr. Crouch's own son, Barty Crouch. Sirius poignantly tells Harry that difficult times can bring out the best and the worst in people, and Voldemort's reign of terror brought out the worst in Mr. Crouch. Drunk on power, Crouch authorized the use of the Unforgivable Curses on suspected Death Eaters and put a number of people in the prison of Azkaban without trials. Sirius insists that it was a merciful act for Mr. Crouch to even give Barty Crouch a trial, even if his son ended up in Azkaban anyway. Even after it comes out that Barty Crouch didn't actually die in Azkaban--Mr. Crouch smuggled him out disguised as his wife and kept him under the Imperius Curse (mind control) for thirteen years--his actions illustrate how an individual can abuse their power and their prestige to forcibly get their way, even if, technically speaking, they're on the side of good.

Ludo Bagman, a former Quidditch player and the current head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports, also falls into this category of not technically bad, but not entirely good either. When Harry unwittingly ends up viewing Dumbledore's memories of several trials of suspected Death Eaters in his Pensieve (a bowl-like object that holds, shows, and allows people to re-experience memories), he learns that Bagman himself was suspected of passing information to the Death Eaters--but because of Bagman's fame as a Quidditch player, he

wasn't convicted, and his trial appears to be more of a formality than an actual attempt to find wrongdoing. Both Crouch and Bagman, then, show Harry what he could do with his power should he choose to do so, and their reputations also make it clear that the line between "good guys" and "bad guys" isn't at all clear-cut: while both abuse their power in various ways and, in Bagman's case, have possible connections with Voldemort, Bagman is a beloved figure who manages to salvage his reputation while Crouch struggles to do either.

Taken together, the individuals that Harry meets over the course of his fourth year at Hogwarts show him clearly that humanity is more complex than the simple dichotomy of non-Death Eaters and Death Eaters, good and evil. Instead, by illustrating Harry early in his life and making it clear that he has the opportunity to abuse his fame and fortune if he so chooses, the novel suggests that good and evil aren't innate states of being. Instead, it suggests that a person *becomes* good or evil--or somewhere in between--through the choices they make and, in particular, how they choose to use or abuse the privileges they're born with.



SYMBOLS

Symbols appear in [blue text](#) throughout the Summary and Analysis sections of this LitChart.



QUICK-QUOTES QUILL

During her interviews, Rita Skeeter uses her Quick-Quotes Quill to take notes for her. The quill is acid green, moves of its own accord, and is presumably to blame for Rita Skeeter's exaggerated and inflammatory articles. During Harry's first interview with Skeeter, he watches her test the quill by telling it only her name. The quill, however, records not just Skeeter's name, but her age, observations about her appearance, and tidbits about her reputation. In this way, the quill itself shows Harry that he can't trust everything he reads--by seeing the quill in action, he discovers that even if he or someone else tells the truth, that doesn't mean that the truth will actually end up in the papers. Instead, what does end up in the papers is filtered through someone else with goals and an agenda all their own--and in the case of Harry and his participation in the Triwizard Tournament, that agenda has little to do with the truth.



HOGWARTS: A HISTORY

Hogwarts: A History is one of Hermione's favorite books and has been for the previous three years that she's been a Hogwarts student. It offers the history of the school and an overview of the various magical rules and enchantments that protect the school. For example, the book

informs Hermione that it is impossible to Apparate on school grounds. However, at the beginning of her fourth year, Hermione discovers her beloved reference text leaves a number of things out in its exploration of Hogwarts--namely, that all the domestic labor at the school is performed by house-elves. This impresses on Hermione that she can't believe everything she reads outright; instead, she needs to understand that everything written expresses information from the perspective of the writer, rather than presenting an objective truth. This realization brings about Hermione's intellectual coming-of-age, turning her into an adult capable of thinking critically about what she reads.



QUOTES

Note: all page numbers for the quotes below refer to the Scholastic edition of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* published in 2002.

Chapter Five Quotes

☞ "Those two!" she burst out savagely, now pulling pots and pans out of a cupboard, and Harry knew she meant Fred and George. "I don't know what's going to happen to them, I really don't. No ambition, unless you count making as much trouble as they possibly can..."

Related Characters: Mrs. Weasley (speaker), Harry Potter , Fred Weasley , George Weasley

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 58

Explanation and Analysis

The evening that Harry arrives at the Burrow, Mrs. Weasley loses her temper at Fred and George when she discovers that they baited Dudley into eating one of their Ton-Tongue Toffees, which she thinks are a waste of their time. Though Mrs. Weasley has every right to be angry with the twins for baiting Dudley--what they did was mean and preyed on Dudley's weaknesses--the way that she frames her displeasure here shows that there's more to it than just the twins' not behaving kindly. Instead, she takes the Ton-Tongue Toffees as proof that the twins aren't motivated to be successful later in life, though the reader later learns that Mrs. Weasley's definition of success is narrow and includes mostly Ministry work. This shows that the twins are already at a disadvantage in terms of familial support as they move forward, given that Mrs. Weasley doesn't take their dreams of opening a joke shop seriously or believe that's a reasonable path forward.

Chapter Seven Quotes

☞ Harry laughed but didn't voice the amazement he felt at hearing about other Wizarding schools. He supposed, now that he saw representatives of so many nationalities in the campsite, that he had been stupid never to realize that Hogwarts couldn't be the only one.

Related Characters: Harry Potter

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 85

Explanation and Analysis

As Harry, Ron, and Hermione walk through the campsite and discuss a former pen pal of Bill's, Harry realizes that it never occurred to him that there would be other Wizarding schools throughout the world. This shows that the Quidditch World Cup, aside from being a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Harry for sports reasons, is a life-changing experience exactly because it introduces Harry to how vast the Wizarding world actually is. The fact that Harry never considered that there would be other Wizarding schools mirrors where Harry currently is in his process of coming of age. At this point, he's still a boy and as such, his world is still relatively small, safe, and mediated by adults he trusts. Discovering that the world is bigger allows Harry to mature, learn about how different people live in the world, and learn to question his assumptions going forward.

Chapter Eight Quotes

☞ "House-elves is not paid, sir!" she said in a muffled squeak. "No, no, no. I says to Dobby, I says, go find yourself a nice family and settle down, Dobby. He is getting up to all sorts of high jinks, sir, what is unbecoming of a house-elf. You goes racketing around like this, Dobby, I says, and next thing I hear you's up in front of the Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures, like some common goblin."

Related Characters: Winky (speaker), Harry Potter , Hermione Granger , Dobby

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 98

Explanation and Analysis

In the top box before the Quidditch match, the house-elf Winky explains to Harry why freedom isn't agreeing with Dobby in her opinion. Here, Winky makes it clear that in

terms of house-elves, Dobby is an outlier in that he wants freedom and wants to be paid. From Winky's description, this isn't normal and may even be illegal, given that Dobby is at risk of ending up at the Ministry for demanding pay.

Even more importantly, Winky introduces the reader to the fact that there's a specific department at the Ministry that deals with "Magical Creatures" and, presumably, lumps all creatures together under one department. This suggests that the human wizards view magical creatures as mostly the same, given that they don't differentiate between house-elves and goblins. Further, from the snippets of conversation later between the trio in which they discuss the goblin rebellions that their History of Magic curriculum covers, it becomes increasingly clear that all magical creatures aren't the same--the goblins revolt with shocking regularity, unlike the house-elves, and Dumbledore later mentions that giants want rights and freedom, unlike the house-elves. This all lays the groundwork for exploring a system that doesn't work for the creatures it regulates and instead allows the wizards in charge to treat those creatures with disdain and superiority.

Chapter Nine Quotes

💬 "I don't get it," said Ron, frowning. "I mean...it's still only a shape in the sky..."

"Ron, You-Know-Who and his followers sent the Dark Mark into the air whenever they killed," said Mr. Weasley. "The terror it inspired...you have no idea, you're too young. Just picture coming home and finding the Dark Mark hovering over your house, and knowing what you're about to find inside..." Mr. Weasley winced. "Everyone's worst fear...the very worst..."

Related Characters: Ron Weasley , Mr. Weasley (speaker), Harry Potter , Hermione Granger , Lord Voldemort , Bill Weasley , Charlie Weasley

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 142

Explanation and Analysis

After Mr. Weasley herds Harry, Ron, and Hermione back to the tent after the riot at the Quidditch World Cup, Ron is confused about the significance of the Dark Mark and Mr. Weasley tries to explain what exactly it means. The fact that Ron doesn't know what the Mark signifies first speaks to the success of the post-Voldemort Wizarding world at recovering from his reign of terror: children don't recognize his symbols and therefore don't understand their

significance. When Mr. Weasley tries to explain, he helps Ron better understand the historical significance and, specifically, leads Ron towards understanding better what he, Mrs. Weasley, and others of their generation went through when they fought Voldemort the first time. As Ron learns more about what life was like fourteen years ago when Voldemort was in power, he's consequentially better able to empathize with the adults in his life. and he in turn can look to the future and better understand what life might be like again if Voldemort returns to power.

Chapter Ten Quotes

💬 "Oh really," said Mr. Weasley in exasperation, handing the paper to Percy. "Nobody was hurt. What was I supposed to say? *Rumors that several bodies were removed from the woods...*well, there certainly will be rumors now that she's printed that."

Related Characters: Mr. Weasley (speaker), Rita Skeeter

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 147-48

Explanation and Analysis

The day after the mayhem at the Quidditch World Cup, Mr. Weasley reads a *Daily Prophet* article written by Rita Skeeter that suggests there were bodies found in the woods. Mr. Weasley's interpretation of Skeeter's article--that simply writing that there are rumors will create rumors out of thin air--shows that he understands the power of writers like Rita Skeeter to shape the realities of many *Daily Prophet* readers. Because so many people trust the newspaper to deliver their news, it's easy for someone like Rita Skeeter to manipulate that trust for her own gain and in doing so, shift perception of events to create an environment of fear and hysteria. On the other hand, Skeeter's ability to do this in the first place suggests that wizards like Mr. Weasley, who possess these critical thinking skills, aren't very common, especially given Mr. Weasley's reaction to the article (he immediately goes to work after this to deal with the problems Skeeter's article creates). This suggests that British Wizarding society as a whole is at risk of being manipulated by people like Rita Skeeter, who are willing to stir up trouble and fear in order to keep their words in print.

Chapter Fourteen Quotes

☞ "Now, according to the Ministry of Magic, I'm supposed to teach you countercurses and leave it at that. I'm not supposed to show you what illegal Dark curses look like until you're in the sixth year. You're not supposed to be old enough to deal with it till then. But Professor Dumbledore's got a higher opinion of your nerves, he reckons you can cope, and I say, the sooner you know what you're up against, the better."

Related Characters: Professor Moody (speaker), Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 211-12

Explanation and Analysis

During Moody's first class with the Gryffindor fourth-years, he explains that he's going to teach them about the Unforgivable Curses (mind control, excruciating pain, and the killing curse) even though the Ministry doesn't believe fourteen-year-olds are mature enough to handle the lesson. With this, Moody proposes that knowledge is power and that his students will only be able to properly function in the world if they're aware of what's out there and have the skills to fight back as necessary. Though Moody contextualizes this in terms of being old enough or not, his belief that the students are ready also speaks to their maturity and their ability to think carefully about what the Ministry wants them to learn and why it wants them to learn it. In this way, Moody becomes an example of what the students should one day endeavor to be: people who listen to the Ministry, but who also look at the information in front of them and makes decisions based on what they sees.

☞ He heard Ron come up into the dormitory a short while later, but he did not speak to him. For a long time, Harry lay staring up at the dark canopy of his bed. The dormitory was completely silent, and, had he been less preoccupied, Harry would have realized that the absence of Neville's usual snores meant that he was not the only one lying awake.

Related Characters: Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Neville Longbottom

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 227

Explanation and Analysis

After receiving a letter from Sirius with the news that Sirius is heading north to be near Harry, Harry angrily goes to bed and ignores Ron. This passage encapsulates Harry's in-between state as he comes of age: while he's extremely worried about Sirius and selflessly wants to protect his godfather, he's also not aware of all the people around him. This is the evening after the Gryffindors' first lesson with Moody, in which Moody demonstrated the Unforgivable Curses and made Neville in particular highly uncomfortable. The way that the narrator frames this scene allows the reader insight into the ways in which Harry is still a self-absorbed boy, given that he's too caught up in his own worries to realize that Neville is awake, likely thinking about what he saw in class (as Harry and the reader learn later, Neville's parents are insane after being tortured with one of the Unforgivable Curses).

Chapter Fifteen Quotes

☞ "It's all in *Hogwarts: A History*. Though, of course, that book's not *entirely* reliable. A Revised *History of Hogwarts* would be a more accurate title. Or *A Highly Biased and Selective History of Hogwarts, Which Glosses Over the Nastier Aspects of the School*."

"What are you on about?" said Ron, though Harry thought he knew what was coming.

"House-elves!" said Hermione, her eyes flashing. "Not once, in over a thousand pages, does *Hogwarts: A History* mention that we are all colluding in the oppression of a hundred slaves!"

Related Characters: Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger (speaker), Harry Potter

Related Themes:   

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 238

Explanation and Analysis

As Harry, Ron, Fred, and George discuss the Triwizard Tournament, Hermione points out that the information they're wondering about is all in *Hogwarts: A History*, but then she suggests that the book's choice to leave out any mention of house-elves makes it an entirely unreliable text. This shows just how earth-shattering the discovery of house-elves at Hogwarts is for Hermione and, in particular, how this discovery teaches her the importance of reading critically and evaluating a text for bias or ulterior motives. It's important to keep in mind that nearly every wizard that

Harry, Ron, and Hermione speak to about house-elves believes that the elves are better off enslaved than they'd be free. This indicates that this is the status quo and that the author of *Hogwarts: A History* likely felt the same way when they wrote about the school. In other words, house-elves are so normal for most wizards that they don't even bear mentioning. This functions to show Hermione what she's up against: in her quest to free the house-elves, she has to convince the humans who govern the elves that what's happening isn't good or normal.

Chapter Eighteen Quotes

☞ "Oh Harry, isn't it obvious?" Hermione said despairingly. "He's jealous!"

"Jealous?" Harry said incredulously. "Jealous of what? He wants to make a prat of himself in front of the whole school, does he?"

"Look," said Hermione patiently, "it's always you who gets all the attention, you know it is. I know it's not your fault," she added quickly, seeing Harry open his mouth furiously. "I know you don't ask for it...but--well--Ron's got all those brothers to compete against at home, and you're his best friend, and you're really famous--he's always shunted to one side whenever people see you, and he puts up with it, and he never mentions it, but I suppose this is just one time too many..."

Related Characters: Harry Potter , Hermione Granger (speaker), Ron Weasley

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 290

Explanation and Analysis

The morning after Harry is chosen as the fourth champion for the Triwizard Tournament, Hermione encourages him to be understanding of why Ron is so upset and refuses to speak to him. In doing so, Hermione does two things. First, she attempts to make Harry understand how Ron's background makes the fact that everything happens to Harry hard to stomach. In other words, Hermione tries to impress upon Harry the importance of treating Ron with kindness and empathy, even if Ron isn't able to do the same right now. Second, she tries to make Harry see the power he has as a result of his money and his fame--notably in this case, he has the power to make Ron feel small and inconsequential. Though Harry insists here that he doesn't actually want this kind of attention, the fact remains that Ron is still jealous of it and would like even a fraction of it for

himself. In explaining all this to Harry, Hermione asks him to consider the ways in which he flaunts his fame and his fortune and suggests that he think carefully about how people interpret his actions.

☞ "Testing...my name is Rita Skeeter, *Daily Prophet* reporter." Harry looked down quickly at the quill. The moment Rita Skeeter had spoken, the green quill had started to scribble, skidding across the parchment:

Attractive blonde Rita Skeeter, forty-three, whose savage quill has punctured many inflated reputations--

Related Characters: Rita Skeeter (speaker), Harry Potter

Related Themes: 

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 304

Explanation and Analysis

Before the Weighing of the Wands ceremony, Rita Skeeter drags Harry into a broom closet so that she can interview him privately. Right before she begins her formal interview, she tests her Quick-Quotes Quill, which takes notes for her and, as evidenced by what it says about Rita Skeeter herself, embellishes whatever people say. This shows how the Quick-Quotes Quill becomes a symbol for the media and how the media use sensationalist articles to stir up fear in some cases, to evoke sympathy in others, and, often, to obscure the truth. While what the quill says about Skeeter is technically true, it shows Harry that Rita Skeeter's articles must be read knowing that they're exaggerated and don't tell a complete version of the truth. It's important to read between the lines to pick out where the nuggets of truth actually are if one wants to know what's really going on.

Chapter Nineteen Quotes

☞ "--and reading between the lines of that Skeeter woman's article last month, Moody was attacked the night before he started at Hogwarts. Yes, I know she says it was another false alarm," Sirius said hastily, seeing Harry about to speak, "but I don't think so, somehow. I think someone tried to stop him from getting to Hogwarts. I think someone knew their job would be a lot more difficult with him around. And no one's going to look into it too closely; Mad-Eye's heard intruders a bit too often."

Related Characters: Sirius Black (speaker), Harry Potter , Professor Moody , Rita Skeeter

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 333

Explanation and Analysis

During Harry's early-morning conversation with Sirius in the Gryffindor fireplace, Sirius and Harry discuss Moody's presence at Hogwarts and the possibility that someone tried to stop him from coming to work. Most importantly, Sirius mentions that he read between the lines of an article written by Rita Skeeter, which suggests that Sirius is one of the few wizards who has the critical thinking skills to extrapolate some version of the truth out of an article that may contain only grains of truth. Then, he also begins to get at the ways in which a person can lose credibility over time. Though it's important to keep in mind that Sirius is actually right--the Moody teaching at Hogwarts is Barty Crouch impersonating Moody, having done exactly what Sirius suggests here--it's also important for Harry going forward to see that as Moody's reputation for hearing things grew, he gradually became less and less trustworthy. Now, nobody takes him seriously when he hears intruders. In this case, as with Harry at the end of the novel, Moody's lack of credibility thanks to a colorful reputation means that important people then feel unable to take him seriously and in refusing to do so, lose out on chances to stop evil before it gets any bigger.

that Cedric would otherwise be the only champion unaware of what he was walking into, and he feels deeply that allowing Cedric to end up in that position would've been unfair and cruel. This shows that though Harry is younger than the other champions, his sense of fairness is far more developed than theirs--throughout the Tournament, Cedric and Harry help each other, but neither Hogwarts champion receives help from Krum or Fleur at any point. This begins to suggest that Hogwarts as a whole is a school that does a good job of teaching fairness and honesty, while Beauxbatons and Durmstrang struggle to do so. This is something that the different schools confirm in their very design: Hogwarts has four Houses and so accepts a variety of different students, while the Beauxbatons students only ever sit at the Ravenclaw table and the Durmstrang students only sit at the Slytherin table. This tells the reader that those schools share qualities with those particular houses and aren't successful in teaching things that Dumbledore is able to by being more open to differences of opinion and disposition.

Chapter Twenty-Three Quotes

💬 "He's from Durmstrang!" spat Ron. "He's competing against Harry! Against Hogwarts! You--you're--" Ron was obviously casting around for words strong enough to describe Hermione's crime, "*fraternizing with the enemy*, that's what you're doing!"

Related Characters: Ron Weasley (speaker), Harry Potter , Hermione Granger , Viktor Krum

Related Themes:    

Page Number: 421

Explanation and Analysis

During the Yule Ball, Ron loses his temper at Hermione when he learns that she came to the ball with Krum, and he accuses her of working against Harry. When Ron does this, it shows that he's beginning to prioritize winning over the supposed aims of the Tournament: to foster understanding and friendship over international lines. Though Voldemort hasn't returned yet, Dumbledore later notes that Voldemort is so successful at creating mayhem exactly because he makes people feel as though they can't trust each other. Ron's willingness to so easily villainize Viktor Krum then shows that even reasonable "good guys" like Ron are susceptible to Voldemort's powers, even in low-stakes, Voldemort-free situations like the Triwizard Tournament.

Chapter Twenty Quotes

💬 "Why are you telling me?" he asked.

Harry looked at him in disbelief. He was sure Cedric wouldn't have asked that if he had seen the dragons himself. Harry wouldn't have let his worst enemy face those monsters unprepared--well, perhaps Malfoy or Snape...

"It's just...fair, isn't it?" he said to Cedric. "We all know now...we're on an even footing, aren't we?"

Related Characters: Harry Potter , Cedric Diggory (speaker)

Related Themes:    

Page Number: 341

Explanation and Analysis

A few days before the first task, which is getting past a dragon, Harry tells Cedric what the task is. Harry knows

☞ "But what's it matter if his mother was a giantess?" said Harry.

"Well...no one who knows him will care, 'cos they'll know he's not dangerous," said Ron slowly. "But...Harry, they're just vicious, giants. It's like Hagrid said, they're like trolls...they just like killing, everyone knows that."

Related Characters: Harry Potter , Ron Weasley (speaker), Hagrid , Madame Maxime

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 430

Explanation and Analysis

After overhearing Hagrid and Madame Maxime discussing Hagrid's giant parentage (Madame Maxime refuted Hagrid's claim that she's also half-giant), Ron explains to Harry why Hagrid likely kept this information secret. What he says about giants reveals that wizards as a whole view giants as fundamentally violent and unreasonable beings that cannot be proper members of society. It's interesting that Ron holds these views, given that Hagrid is a half-giant and is clearly not vicious or violent. This suggests that Ron's conception of what giants are like (which, within the world of the novel, is intended to encompass what the wider Wizarding world thinks of giants) is likely misguided and, if they were given the opportunity, giants could actually be meaningful members of society.

Chapter Twenty-Six Quotes

☞ "What did you bring her for?"

"Fleur didn't turn up, I couldn't leave her," Harry panted.

"Harry, you prat," said Ron, "you didn't take that song thing seriously, did you? Dumbledore wouldn't have let any of us drown!"

"The song said--"

"It was only to make sure you got back inside the time limit!" said Ron. "I hope you didn't waste time down there acting the hero!"

Harry felt both stupid and annoyed. It was all very well for Ron; he'd been asleep, he hadn't felt how eerie it was down in the lake, surrounded by spear-carrying merpeople who'd looked more than capable of murder.

Related Characters: Harry Potter , Ron Weasley (speaker), Fleur Delacour , Gabrielle

Related Themes:    

Page Number: 503

Explanation and Analysis

When Harry, Ron, and Gabrielle resurface after the second task in the lake, Ron reprimands Harry for rescuing Gabrielle instead of just him. In particular, Ron takes offense at the fact that Harry didn't think carefully about the way that society and school works--because the Triwizard Tournament takes place at school and is mediated by adults who are, in theory, trustworthy, Ron is right and none of the victims was in danger of drowning. This then shows that Harry has a long way to go when it comes to learning to trust the adults around him, and it also illustrates that he needs to learn to carefully consider the context when he hears things like the egg's song.

It's also important to note Harry's inner monologue about being in the lake with the merpeople. While several merpeople did physically restrain Harry, they never actually used their weapons against him and only touched Harry to make sure he followed the rules of the Tournament. This suggests that Harry is likely prejudiced against the merpeople and sees them as dangerous and untrustworthy because they're not human. It also ignores the fact that when Harry brandished his wand at the merpeople, they all backed away in fear--Harry had all the power down in the lake because, as a wizard, he has access to greater and more powerful magic than the merpeople do (and, for that matter, any of the other non-human creatures under Ministry control that aren't allowed to use wands).

Chapter Twenty-Seven Quotes

☞ "Yes," said Hermione in a heated voice, "he sacked her, just because she hadn't stayed in her tent and let herself get trampled--"

"Hermione, will you give it a rest with the elf!" said Ron.

Sirius shook his head and said, "She's got the measure of Crouch better than you have, Ron. If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals."

Related Characters: Ron Weasley , Hermione Granger , Sirius Black (speaker), Harry Potter , Mr. Crouch , Winky

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 525

Explanation and Analysis

During Harry, Ron, and Hermione's visit with Sirius in Hogsmeade, Sirius uses Ron and Hermione's argument regarding Mr. Crouch's poor treatment of his house-elf Winky to show off Mr. Crouch's character. Sirius's interpretation of this shows that he understands that the world isn't easily divided up into categories of good and bad people. Rather, there can be people on the side of good, like Mr. Crouch, who nonetheless abuse their power to make life miserable for people with less power than they have.

Though Harry doesn't fully internalize this, Sirius's speech does show Harry that, as a privileged individual, Harry will eventually have to make the same kinds of choices that Mr. Crouch made when it comes to how he treats people who are powerless. Harry has the opportunity to lift them up and use his privilege to help them, but he can also choose to abuse his power--and he can make either choice while still fighting Voldemort, thereby not jeopardizing his status as the "good guy" in the fight against evil.

☞ "Crouch let his son off? I thought you had the measure of him, Hermione! Anything that threatened to tarnish his reputation had to go; he had dedicated his whole life to becoming Minister of Magic. You saw him dismiss a devoted house-elf because she associated him with the Dark Mark again--doesn't that tell you what he's like? Crouch's fatherly affection stretched just far enough to give his son a trial, and by all accounts, it wasn't much more than an excuse for Crouch to show how much he hated the boy...then he sent him straight to Azkaban."

Related Characters: Sirius Black (speaker), Harry Potter , Ron Weasley , Hermione Granger , Mr. Crouch , Barty Crouch , Winky

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 528

Explanation and Analysis

Sirius explains to Harry, Ron, and Hermione how, when it came to light that Mr. Crouch's son, Barty Crouch, was involved with the Death Eaters, Mr. Crouch sent his son to Azkaban in order to preserve his own reputation. This offers yet another example of the ways in which Mr. Crouch abused his power as a Ministry official and used his power only for his own gain, not to help anyone who might jeopardize his ascent to even more power.

The behavior that Sirius describes from Mr. Crouch also suggests that Mr. Crouch never developed a sense of

empathy for anyone, even his own family members. This idea connects developing empathy with the ability to use one's power for good.

Chapter Twenty-Eight Quotes

☞ Harry looked over at the fireplace too. Winky was sitting on the same stool as last time, but she had allowed herself to become so filthy that she was not immediately distinguishable from the smoke-blackened brick behind her. Her clothes were ragged and unwashed. She was clutching a bottle of butterbeer and swaying slightly on her stool, staring into the fire. As they watched her, she gave an enormous hiccup.

"Winky is getting through six bottles a day now," Dobby whispered to Harry.

Related Characters: Dobby (speaker), Harry Potter , Hermione Granger , Winky

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 536

Explanation and Analysis

When Harry, Ron, and Hermione visit the Hogwarts kitchens for a second time, they discover that Winky is still upset about being fired by Mr. Crouch and isn't adjusting at all to her freedom. While unremarkable on its own, it's important to keep in mind that Hermione builds S.P.E.W. and develops its aims based entirely on the experiences of Winky and Dobby--and Winky is turning to alcohol to cope with the exact thing that Hermione wants all house-elves to have. This shows that though Hermione's heart may be in the right place, she's a poor activist at this point because she's entirely unwilling to listen to the thoughts and feelings of the beings she'd like to help. If she were to ask Winky what Winky wanted and then advocate for that, whatever it might be, Hermione would have a better chance of making a positive difference in elves' lives. At the very least, Winky's poor state and the happiness of the Hogwarts house-elves suggests that Hermione's attempts are misguided and tone-deaf, as none of the house-elves wants what Hermione is fighting for.

Chapter Thirty Quotes

☞☞ Dumbledore gave Harry a very sharp look. "Has Neville never told you why he has been brought up by his grandmother?" he said.

Harry shook his head, wondering, as he did so, how he could have failed to ask Neville this, in almost four years of knowing him.

Related Characters: Professor Dumbledore (speaker), Harry Potter , Neville Longbottom , Frank Longbottom , Neville's grandmother

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 602

Explanation and Analysis

During Harry's accidental trip into Dumbledore's Pensieve, he finds himself in a trial of Death Eaters accused of torturing Neville's parents. When Harry and Dumbledore discuss the matter afterward, Harry wonders why he never asked Neville where his parents are. This shows that over the course of the novel, Harry has come a long way in terms of developing empathy and curiosity about others, especially those whom he's formerly thought of as being only background figures. Neville has never been a particularly interesting person for Harry, thus Harry's lack of curiosity about Neville's home life. However, as Harry's capacity to think of others aside from himself grows, he's able to become curious about his classmates and begin to see them as fully-fledged people as well.

Most importantly, Harry takes responsibility for the fact that he doesn't know this about Neville. This shows that Harry recognizes that it's on him to find out about others; he can't rely on them to share everything--in this case, that "everything" may be especially sensitive and they might not want to share it, nor are they obligated to.

Chapter Thirty-One Quotes

☞☞ As Harry took off his glasses and climbed into his four-poster, he imagined how it must feel to have parents still living but unable to recognize you. He often got sympathy from strangers for being an orphan, but as he listened to Neville's snores, he thought that Neville deserved it more than he did.

Related Characters: Harry Potter , Neville Longbottom

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 607

Explanation and Analysis

The night after Harry learns that Death Eaters tortured Neville's parents and that they no longer recognize him, he reasons that Neville's situation is worse than his own and that Neville is more deserving of sympathy. This shows that Harry has completed his journey towards becoming an empathetic person and can now understand that other people suffered at Voldemort's hands, just as he did, but in all manner of horrifying and traumatizing ways that many of them are still living with. This functions to bring the past into the present for Harry, as it leads him to recognize that Voldemort is at fault for most of the tragedy he's aware of among his classmates. It also shows very simply that Harry now sees Neville as a full individual whose life is unique and difficult, just like Harry's is.

Chapter Thirty-Three Quotes

☞☞ "And I answer myself, perhaps they believed a still greater power could exist, one that could vanquish even Lord Voldemort...perhaps they now pay allegiance to another...perhaps that champion of commoners, of Mudbloods and Muggles, Albus Dumbledore?"

Related Characters: Lord Voldemort (speaker), Harry Potter , Professor Dumbledore

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 648

Explanation and Analysis

As Voldemort addresses his Death Eaters in the graveyard, he questions whether his followers have, in the thirteen years since his disappearance, switched sides and now support Dumbledore. Importantly, the way that Voldemort speaks about Dumbledore as being a "champion of commoners" and mentions Muggles in particular suggests that Voldemort hates Dumbledore exactly because Dumbledore believes in a world where all are welcome. Voldemort, on the other hand, believes in a world that's exclusive and is open to only a select few and, even then, only with his permission. This sets up the main conflict going forward as being between not just good and evil, but between values of inclusion and exclusion regarding people who are different.

Chapter Thirty-Six Quotes

☞ "For heaven's sake, Dumbledore--the boy was full of some crackpot story at the end of last year too--his tales are getting taller, and you're still swallowing them--the boy can talk to snakes, Dumbledore, and you think he's trustworthy?"

"You fool!" Professor McGonagall cried. "Cedric Diggory! Mr. Crouch! These deaths were not the random work of a lunatic!"

Related Characters: Cornelius Fudge , Professor McGonagall (speaker), Harry Potter , Mr. Crouch , Lord Voldemort , Professor Dumbledore , Rita Skeeter , Cedric Diggory

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 706

Explanation and Analysis

Following Harry's insistence that Voldemort returned during the third task, Cornelius Fudge refuses to believe Harry's story. It's especially telling that Fudge doesn't believe Harry (and believes he's justified in this) because Harry is a Parselmouth, a quality that's often associated with Dark wizards. This shows that Fudge is more than willing to flatten people to one or two characteristics, especially if they're troubling to him, and that Fudge is happy to use his prejudices to describe the kind of world he wants to see.

Professor McGonagall, on the other hand, is able to look at the evidence in front of her and make an informed decision about what's going on and how the world is functioning today. This sets her apart from Fudge, who refuses to look at this evidence and see that Voldemort has returned and is once again murdering innocent people.

☞ "The second step you must take--and at once,"
Dumbledore pressed on, "is to send envoys to the giants."

"Envoys to the giants?" Fudge shrieked, finding his tongue again. "What madness is this?"

"Extend the hand of friendship, now, before it is too late," said Dumbledore, "or Voldemort will persuade them, as he did before, that he alone among wizards will give them their rights and their freedom!"

Related Characters: Professor Dumbledore , Cornelius Fudge (speaker), Harry Potter , Lord Voldemort

Related Themes:    

Page Number: 708

Explanation and Analysis

Though Fudge refuses to listen, Dumbledore continues to tell Fudge how he should act if he wants to effectively combat Voldemort before Voldemort becomes too powerful. His suggestion to befriend the giants shows that Dumbledore is well aware that there are beings in the world who do indeed want to be recognized by Wizarding society and, because they're not currently recognized, will be easily turned against Fudge and Dumbledore. This shows that Voldemort can gain allies in these marginalized communities if he promises to reward them with rights and recognition. Fudge's unwillingness to follow Dumbledore's advice, however, shows that he's still unwilling to confront his own prejudices, even for the sake of the greater good. Instead, Fudge is choosing to behave selfishly in an attempt to keep himself in power and is continuing to put others down in the process.

Chapter Thirty-Seven Quotes

☞ "The Ministry of Magic," Dumbledore continued, "does not wish me to tell you this. It is possible that some of your parents will be horrified that I have done so--either because they will not believe that Lord Voldemort has returned, or because they think I should not tell you so, young as you are. It is my belief, however, that the truth is generally preferable to lies, and that any attempt to pretend that Cedric died as a result of an accident, or some sort of blunder of his own, is an insult to his memory."

Related Characters: Professor Dumbledore (speaker), Lord Voldemort , Cedric Diggory

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 722

Explanation and Analysis

At the final feast, Dumbledore tells the assembled students the truth about how Cedric Diggory died and insists that it would be insulting to Cedric to lie about how he died. With this, Dumbledore makes much the same argument as Moody did when he explained why he was going to teach the Unforgivable Curses: knowledge is power, and a person can't effectively act and make appropriate choices without knowing the full truth. Dumbledore also suggests here that the Ministry and many parents believe fully in censoring what students know in an effort to protect them, something

that Dumbledore believes is misguided. In choosing to tell the school the truth, Dumbledore shows the students that he believes they're mature enough to handle the truth and don't need coddling as though they're young children.

“I say to you all, once again--in the light of Lord Voldemort's return, we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided. Lord Voldemort's gift for spreading discord and enmity is very great. We can fight it only by showing an equally strong bond of friendship and trust. Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”

Related Characters: Professor Dumbledore (speaker), Lord Voldemort

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 723

Explanation and Analysis

In the closing of Dumbledore's speech at the final feast, he makes it clear that in order to effectively fight Voldemort, everyone needs to rely on their friendships with others, especially their friends from international communities like Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. Dumbledore sees friendship and trust as being the best weapons against Voldemort, who is successful exactly because he makes it seem as though people can't trust each other and are alone in the world. In other words, Dumbledore advocates for both empathy and diversity as he makes his case to the students, as he encourages them to look for the ways that they're similar, despite of and because of all the ways that they're different.



SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The color-coded icons under each analysis entry make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. Each icon corresponds to one of the themes explained in the Themes section of this LitChart.

CHAPTER ONE

The old Riddle House in the village of Little Hangleton has been the subject of rumors for 50 years. 50 years ago, a maid found the three members of the Riddle family dead. The villagers were initially shocked and then thrilled that Frank Bryce, the Riddles' gardener, was arrested. However, the report about the Riddles' bodies couldn't find a cause of death--it looked as though they'd died of fright. The police released Frank, who returned to the Riddle House and tended the grounds for the next owners.

In the present, the owner of the Riddle House doesn't live there, though he still pays Frank to maintain the grounds. Now that he's almost 80, Frank struggles to keep up, and the cruel local boys make things worse by breaking windows and riding on the lawns. One night, Frank wakes up when his bad leg starts hurting. As he fills his hot water bottle, he notices a light on at the house and figures that the local boys broke in and lit a fire. He dresses quickly and heads up to the house.

Frank climbs the stairs and finds the intruders in a room at the end of the hallway. There's a fire in the grate and seeing this, Frank stops to listen. A scared-sounding man, Wormtail, offers something to a second man (Voldemort), whom Frank can't see but whose voice sounds cold and high-pitched. The two men puzzle Frank by talking about the Quidditch World Cup, Muggles, and the Ministry of Magic. Frank believes he's listening to criminals or spies.

Wormtail suggests that they should do "it" without Harry Potter, but Voldemort accuses Wormtail of attempting to desert him and insists that he won't use anyone else. Wormtail notes that Bertha Jorkins's disappearance will soon raise suspicions, and the two men discuss killing one more person before killing Harry Potter. Chilled and sweaty, Frank realizes that Voldemort is speaking about killing people with amusement. He knows he needs to go to the police but as he turns to go, Voldemort says that he hears Nagini coming. Frozen with fear, Frank watches a massive snake slither past and into the room.

Pay attention to the way in which the villagers so quickly change their thinking about Frank Bryce to believe he killed his employers. This allows the reader to see how people can easily latch onto an idea if it seems attractive, regardless of whether or not it's actually probable. In doing so, the novel shows that it's easy to sidestep critical thinking in favor of going with what's easy.



The local boys that torment Frank introduce the reader to a starting point of coming of age: these boys feel entitled to treat Frank like this because they selfishly don't believe that he's worthy of respect or empathy. In turn, Frank doesn't feel compelled to empathize with the boys either, hence why he immediately blames them.



A reader familiar with the Harry Potter series is led to believe that the second voice is Voldemort. This raises the question of whether Voldemort now actually has a body. Frank's reasoning about what he's listening to shows that he desperately wants to make things make sense when he doesn't understand them.



Frank's decision to call for the police shows that he knows how to call on his community to protect other people as needed. He understands that it's his responsibility as an individual to do what he can to protect others, even if he doesn't know Harry Potter or Bertha Jorkins. This illustrates that even in the case of this man the reader doesn't really know, everyone has the power to choose whether to help others or go along with evil.



Frank listens to Voldemort hiss and spit, but thinks it's impossible that he's talking to the snake. Voldemort tells Wormtail that Nagini has news: there's a Muggle in the hallway. Wormtail shows Frank into the room. Frank can't see Voldemort sitting in the armchair, but draws up his courage and threatens to go to the police. He also says that his wife knows he's here. Voldemort says—correctly—that Frank has no wife, and Frank challenges Voldemort to face him like a man. Wormtail turns the chair around but when Frank sees the being sitting in it, he screams. He dies in a flash of green light, while Harry Potter wakes up hundreds of miles away.

The fact that all of this wakes Harry up calls into question whether or not this chapter is a dream. It will be possible for Harry to interpret it either way, which will give him the opportunity to begin to parse the differences between truth and imagination as well as learn to trust himself and his own interpretation of things. Voldemort's cruelty in killing Frank shows he has little regard for others, even though it's unlikely Muggle police would have had any effect on Voldemort.



CHAPTER TWO

Harry wakes, breathing hard, and feels his lightning bolt-shaped scar, which hurts. He examines it in the mirror, but it looks normal. Harry tries to recall his dream but can only really remember hearing that Voldemort and Wormtail are planning on killing him. He walks to the window and sees nothing amiss on Privet Drive, but thinks that the last time his scar hurt, Voldemort was close to him. He knows he can't tell his aunt and uncle, Vernon and Petunia, about this: they hate magic and are horrible to Harry. They only care for Harry because Voldemort killed Harry's parents when he was about a year old. When Voldemort tried to kill Harry, however, the curse rebounded and Voldemort disappeared.

By introducing Vernon and Petunia, the novel shows what people can become when they never develop a sense of empathy. The narrator goes on to explain that Petunia refuses to believe that her son is a bully and both she and Vernon bully Harry mercilessly, as they believe themselves to be superior and Harry undeserving of attention or care. Though the novel situates them in a different category than Harry because they're Muggles, this does offer him one possible outcome for his life, should he choose to behave selfishly.



Harry has another two weeks before he returns to Hogwarts for his fourth year of school. He looks at his birthday cards and thinks of what his friends, Ron and Hermione, would say. Hermione would tell Harry to ask Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts, while Ron would nervously agree to ask his dad, Mr. Weasley. However, Harry doesn't want the Weasley family to worry, especially since he hopes that they'll invite him soon to visit them so they can attend the Quidditch World Cup. Finally, Harry realizes whom he should ask: Sirius, his godfather who, until a few months ago, was locked away in the wizard prison Azkaban for a crime he didn't commit.

By imagining what Hermione and Ron would say about Harry's dream, it shows that he already knows how to look at his experiences through different lenses to get multiple views on something. This represents the beginning of critical thinking, as it means that Harry already understands that what he experiences and knows (or thinks he knows) doesn't represent one undeniable truth; there are clearly multiple ways to interpret and react.



Because Harry was unable to clear Sirius of his crime, he couldn't live with him this summer. However, Sirius's reputation as a murderer means that the Dursleys now allow Harry to keep his magical items with him for fear of retaliation, as they don't know Sirius is innocent. Harry spends an hour drafting a note to Sirius.

Here, Harry uses his own version of censorship in regards to what Vernon and Petunia know about Sirius. This also shows that Harry understands how to use his words and carefully share information in order to achieve a goal.



CHAPTER THREE

Soon after, Harry heads downstairs for breakfast. Dudley looks even angrier than usual as he receives his breakfast: a quarter of a grapefruit. This is because Dudley's school doesn't make uniforms big enough to accommodate him, so the school nurse recommended a diet consisting mostly of what Vernon calls "rabbit food." Petunia insists that the entire family follow the regime to make Dudley feel better about it. As soon as Harry learned that this would happen, he sent notes to his friends. Hermione, Hagrid, and the Weasleys all sent food, and Harry received four cakes for his birthday. He eats his grapefruit happily, thinking of his cake upstairs.

Uncle Vernon seems just as testy about the grapefruit as Dudley does. As he picks up his spoon, the doorbell rings. While Vernon is out of the room, Dudley steals his grapefruit and eats it. A minute later, Vernon returns and calls Harry to the living room. He angrily reads a letter to Harry. It's from Mrs. Weasley, asking if she can host Harry for the rest of the summer so Harry can attend the Quidditch World Cup. When he's finished reading, Vernon furiously holds up the envelope--it's covered in stamps and the postman thought it was funny.

Harry and Vernon argue for a minute and then Harry notes that he's writing to Sirius. Vernon's purple face gets blotchy and finally, he agrees that Harry can go. Brightly, Harry steps into the hallway, says to Dudley that breakfast was great, and runs upstairs. He discovers Hedwig is back and notices a second owl the size of a tennis ball flying around. Harry takes the note off of the owl's leg. It's from Ron and says that his family will fetch Harry tomorrow no matter what the Dursleys say. Harry scribbles a note back to Ron and, after adding a postscript about the World Cup to Sirius's letter, sends Hedwig off.

Petunia's decision to enforce the diet for every family member shows that she is capable of empathy and, though what she's teaching Dudley in terms of kindness is questionable, she is doing her best to be kind. However, because Harry has suffered years of abuse at the Dursleys' hands up to this point, he sees this as just another way for them to torment him and make his life miserable--in other words, his perspective colors his interpretation of this event.



It's clear from Vernon's reaction and Harry's thoughts that Petunia's attempts at making Dudley feel better are only making everyone more miserable--including Dudley, the one person who's supposed to benefit from this diet. This shows that while attempts like this can be made in good faith, that doesn't mean that they're always effective at accomplishing the intent.



Harry's happiness at getting to see the Weasleys and rejoin his community reinforces that he's truly a part of the Wizarding community at this point in his life; the Muggle world holds little for him as, in Harry's estimation, it consists only of the Dursleys. This then illustrates the power that individuals have to make a community feel unwelcoming or welcoming to someone based on how kind they are.



CHAPTER FOUR

The next day, Harry is ready to go by noon. Vernon and Petunia are uptight and irritable while Dudley skulks around fearfully. Nobody eats much at lunch and Vernon confirms that the Weasleys will drive to get Harry. He spends most of the afternoon in his bedroom but as the appointed hour approaches, he heads downstairs. Harry and the Dursleys sit for a half hour, at which point Vernon snarls that the Weasleys are late. As he and Petunia mutter, they hear loud noises coming from behind the boarded-up fireplace.

Vernon's insistence on his version of normalcy (driving, being exactly on time) shows that he has little capacity to understand others' ways of living and moving through the world, especially people like wizards whom he already looks down on. Again, this gives Harry one objectively bad role model as he begins to grow up and come of age.



Harry hears Mr. Weasley tell Fred and George to go back. The Dursleys angrily turn to Harry, who explains that the Weasleys are traveling by Floo powder. Harry explains to Mr. Weasley that the Dursleys have an electric fire as Ron arrives in the fireplace behind the boards. Mr. Weasley tells Harry to stand back and blasts open the wall. Aunt Petunia shrieks as Mr. Weasley warmly approaches her and Vernon to shake hands. Fred and George run upstairs to get Harry's trunk as Mr. Weasley tries, unsuccessfully, to make small talk about plugs and "eckeltricity."

Dudley sidles into the living room clutching his backside. He refuses to answer as Mr. Weasley tries to kindly ask him about his summer vacation. As Fred and George return with Harry's trunk, Mr. Weasley lights a fire and tells Fred to go first. Before Fred steps into the fire, he drops toffees and scrambles to pick them up again. George goes next with Harry's trunk, followed by Ron. Harry bids the Dursleys goodbye as he steps towards the fire, but Mr. Weasley stops Harry and incredulously calls Vernon out for not saying goodbye to Harry.

Just as Harry steps into the fire, he hears gagging and sees Dudley kneeling, gagging on his tongue, which is now a foot long. Petunia and Vernon fling themselves at Dudley and Mr. Weasley approaches with his wand to help, but Petunia shrieks in panic. Vernon starts throwing things at Mr. Weasley, who finally yells for Harry to leave.

CHAPTER FIVE

As soon as Harry tumbles out of the fireplace in the Burrow, Fred and George excitedly ask if Dudley ate the toffee. They explain that it's called Ton-Tongue Toffee as the kitchen explodes with laughter. The two oldest Weasley brothers introduce themselves. Charlie is stocky like the twins, while Bill, who works at Gringotts, is tall and looks undeniably cool. Suddenly, Mr. Weasley appears in the kitchen and shouts angrily at Fred. He yells that Dudley's tongue was four feet long before the Dursleys allowed him to shrink it and threatens to tell Mrs. Weasley. Mrs. Weasley appears and it becomes clear that Mr. Weasley never actually intended to tell his wife. As he shifts nervously, Hermione and Ginny appear and suggest that Ron and Harry come upstairs.

Having to bridge the gap in culture between Muggles and wizards shows that Harry has other times in which he has to think about things from multiple angles. As someone who does live in both worlds, he has to be able to understand how Vernon interprets people suddenly appearing in his fireplace, as well as Mr. Weasley's fascination with electricity and Muggle technology.



When Mr. Weasley takes Vernon and Petunia to task for not saying goodbye to Harry, it positions him as the exact opposite of the Dursleys: he believes in behaving empathetically and kindly towards others, no matter how much one may or might not like them. His attempts to engage Dudley in conversation also situate Mr. Weasley as a positive role model.



Petunia and Vernon's desire to not let Mr. Weasley help is understandable, though whatever happened to Dudley is clearly the work of magic. This indicates that the Dursleys aren't willing to think critically about what's in front of them to get Dudley the help he needs.



Bill and Charlie are some of Harry's first introductions to what life can be like after Hogwarts. Especially because Bill is described as being so cool, it makes it clear that Wizarding adulthood isn't all boring robes and teaching at Hogwarts--Bill later shares that his job is exciting and he's a treasure collector for Gringotts. Similarly, seeing Mr. and Mrs. Weasley's relationship offers a window onto what domestic Wizarding life looks like, especially in terms of parenting teenage sons figuring out how much they can get away with.



Harry follows Ron, Hermione, and Ginny as Ron explains that Fred and George have started a business called Weasley's Wizard Wheezes. He thinks their wares are brilliant, but Mrs. Weasley is furious that they didn't do especially well on their O.W.L. tests and don't want to get jobs at the Ministry. The group passes a door off the second landing and Percy pokes his head out to tell the group to be quiet. Percy tells Harry importantly that he's working on a report on thin cauldron bottoms before Ron sweeps them upstairs.

In Ron's room, Harry notices the tiny owl. Ron explains that Ginny named the owl Pigwidgeon, which he hates, so he calls the owl Pig. He says that Percy loves work an unhealthy amount; he'll go on at length about his boss, Mr. Crouch, given the slightest opportunity. Ron begins to ask about Sirius but stops when he remembers that Ginny, who knows nothing about Sirius, is in the room. Hermione suggests they go downstairs to help with dinner.

Mrs. Weasley is in a horrible mood as she magically peels potatoes and starts a soup. She angrily talks to herself about Fred and George's lack of ambition as Harry, Ron, and Hermione grab plates and silverware. They hurry out as Mrs. Weasley angrily picks up a wand that turns into a rubber mouse—one of Fred and George's products. Outside, Bill and Charlie are levitating two long tables and making them smash into each other. Fred and George laugh while Percy yells out the window to stop. Several hours later, the tables are laden with food and Harry feels as though he's in paradise.

Percy talks on and on about Mr. Crouch and the preparations for the Quidditch World Cup. He says that Ludo Bagman, the head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports, isn't being helpful and isn't pursuing Bertha Jorkins's disappearance, even though she works for Bagman's department. Percy and Mr. Weasley discuss how Bertha is hopeless and often gets lost, but Percy says that her disappearance is being overshadowed by the "top-secret" event that will happen after the World Cup. Ron rolls his eyes. Midway down the table, Mrs. Weasley tries to convince Bill to let her cut his hair and suggests he take his fang earring out, while further down, the twins and Charlie discuss the World Cup. With everyone else occupied, Ron asks Harry about Sirius. Finally, Mrs. Weasley sends everyone to bed.

Again, Fred and George's desire to start a business shows that there are even more options for life after Hogwarts than what the three oldest Weasley brothers represent. Importantly, the fact that they performed poorly on their O.W.L.s indicates that the testing prepares students for a very particular career path, while it's clear that Fred and George aren't missing much given their goals.



Percy's love of his job and of his boss falls into line with what the reader knows of Percy from previous novels—he loves being important, working hard, and following rules, all things that will serve him well now that he works in the Ministry.



Mrs. Weasley's muttering again shows that she believes there are only a few "correct" paths for young people to take after finishing at Hogwarts, and that starting a joke shop isn't one of them. While Ron isn't yet thinking about the future much, this does begin to make it clear to him that he too should aspire to a Ministry job, even if it's not something he actually wants to do.



Because the narration follows Harry and represents his inner thoughts, the reader is led to believe that they shouldn't necessarily take Percy seriously, given that Harry doesn't either. However, it's also telling that Percy says that Bagman isn't pursuing Bertha Jorkins's disappearance at all. Because the reader knows that Voldemort recently killed Jorkins, this suggests that the reader should pay attention to things that Percy says—and that Harry should think more carefully about Percy's words as well.



CHAPTER SIX

Harry wakes before dawn when Mrs. Weasley shakes him. In the kitchen Mr. Weasley asks Harry to check to make sure that his Muggle outfit is appropriate, while Fred grumbles about Percy, Bill, and Charlie getting to Apparate to the match. Harry learns that wizards must pass a test to Apparate and there are many possible complications to doing it wrong, including Splinching (leaving parts of one's body behind). Just as Mr. Weasley starts to lead the group out the door, Mrs. Weasley notices something in George's pockets and starts Summoning Ton-Tongue Toffees out of them. Fred shouts that they spent six months developing the candies, which Mrs. Weasley insists is why they didn't get more O.W.L.s. The twins leave without kissing her goodbye.

As they walk, Mr. Weasley tells Harry about all the precautions the Ministry has put in place to organize the World Cup and keep Muggles away. He says that most wizards are getting to the match using Portkeys, which are objects that are bewitched to transport large groups. The group climbs a steep hill and then begins to look for the Portkey. A man yells to Mr. Weasley that he has it; it's an old boot. Mr. Weasley introduces Amos Diggory and his son, Cedric, a sixth-year Hufflepuff and Quidditch player at Hogwarts. Mr. Diggory notices Harry and says that he's told Cedric that beating Harry Potter at Quidditch last year will be something to tell his children. Cedric looks embarrassed and tries to make his father stop.

With a minute until the appointed time, Mr. Weasley explains that everyone needs to touch the Portkey. They all stand in a circle around the boot and suddenly, Harry feels as though a hook is grabbing his stomach. He lurches forward and flies through the air, finally slamming into the ground and falling over.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Harry gets to his feet and sees that he's on a moor. Two grumpy wizards, dressed in mismatched Muggle clothes, greet Mr. Weasley and direct him towards his campsite. They come to a stone cottage and greet the man there, Mr. Roberts. He's clearly the only real Muggle present. Harry helps Mr. Weasley count out the Muggle money as Mr. Roberts says that the campers have been weird and foreign. Suddenly, a wizard appears next to Mr. Roberts, shouts "*Obliviate*," and Mr. Roberts dreamily gives Mr. Weasley his change. The wizard mutters that Ludo Bagman isn't helping with Mr. Roberts, since he keeps talking about Quidditch in front of him.

Again, the revelation that wizards must take a test in order to Apparate legally continues to add to Harry's conception of what adult wizard life is like, especially since Apparation is held up as being akin to learning to drive a car or at the very least, independently navigate public transit in the Muggle world. Mrs. Weasley's outburst about the Ton-Tongue Toffees again indicates that she has a very narrow view of what's appropriate for her children to aspire to, and that she's going to do whatever she can to push them in a direction she approves of.



When Harry learns about the tools the Ministry uses to organize the World Cup and for transportation, he begins to get a sense of how huge this endeavor is and what goes into making the Wizarding world the way it is. In essence, this shows Harry that his world has many layers that he hasn't yet considered, given that his experience in this world has thus far been confined to the school years at Hogwarts and brief visits to the Weasleys' home during summer vacations.



Again, introducing Harry to this other mode of transportation in the Wizarding world allows him to expand his conception of the limits of his world.



This wizard's aside about Ludo Bagman indicates that not all wizards take security as seriously as Mr. Weasley's explanation would've had Harry believe, given that Bagman doesn't seem concerned about keeping things secret from Muggles. This wizard's displeasure about Bagman begins to suggest that there's something to Percy's assessment, and that Bagman isn't an entirely good person.



Some of the tents look normal, while others have chimneys, gardens, and turrets. Mr. Weasley finds his spot and asks Harry and Hermione to help him set up the tents. When they're erected, Harry wonders how ten people will fit in them, but this question is soon answered for him: inside, the boys' tent has three rooms and a bathroom. Mr. Weasley sends Ron, Harry, and Hermione to fetch water, insisting they can't use the oven in the tent, to preserve anti-Muggle security. Harry realizes that he's never thought about how many wizards there must be in the world as he looks at the witches and wizards milling around.

When Harry, Ron, and Hermione get to a group of tents covered in green shamrocks in support of the Irish team, they run into Seamus Finnigan and Dean Thomas, friends from Hogwarts. When the group climbs over the next hill, they see that the Bulgarian supporters' tents are covered in moving posters of Viktor Krum, the Bulgarian Seeker. Hermione remarks that he looks grumpy as the trio joins the line for water. This offends Ron, who admires Krum. They watch a Ministry wizard argue with another wizard who's wearing a ladies' nightgown and refusing to wear pants.

After they get their water, Harry, Ron, and Hermione see several other friends from school. Harry realizes how many other Wizarding schools there must be in the world as he sees a group of foreign teenagers. Back at the tent, Hermione helps Mr. Weasley light a fire and Mr. Weasley tells Harry and Hermione about all the Ministry people passing by. Just after Bill, Charlie, and Percy arrive around lunchtime, Ludo Bagman stops by and happily says that everything is going well. He invites Mr. Weasley to bet on the match. Fred and George bet their entire savings and a fake wand on the improbable chance that Ireland will win, but Krum will get the Snitch. Bagman is thrilled with the fake wand and Percy looks scandalized at this.

Bagman asks for a cup of tea and says he's looking for Mr. Crouch to translate for him. He settles himself and unconcernedly says that there's no news of Bertha Jorkins. Mr. Crouch arrives. He's dressed in a crisp suit and looks highly polished; Harry thinks that Percy's idolization makes sense. Mr. Crouch impatiently says that the Bulgarians want them to add seats to the Top Box and when Percy offers him tea, he calls Percy "Weatherby." He also tells Mr. Weasley that someone wants to talk to him about importing flying carpets, which is currently illegal.

Mr. Weasley's sense of what's appropriate in terms of security seems charming in light of the fact that a small tent has three rooms inside it. This shows that Mr. Weasley's conception of what the Muggle world is like is skewed, just as Vernon Dursley's beliefs regarding the Wizarding world are skewed. Harry's observation about the other witches and wizards continues to expand his understanding of his world.



Hermione's assessment of Krum is innocuous in this situation, but it's telling that she makes this kind of judgment based only on Krum's appearance. Though Hermione will go on to be one of the most forward-thinking and openhearted individuals in Harry's circle, it's telling that she's also capable of making snap judgments about people--she's human, like anyone else.



Harry's realization that there are other Wizarding schools specifically helps to show him that the Wizarding world isn't just made up of adults--there are other fourteen-year-old wizards out there, just like him. In turn, this helps him develop a sense of camaraderie with these other teens. When Percy is so scandalized that Bagman thinks the twins' wand is funny, it shows that he agrees with Mrs. Weasley that there are defined and delineated ways for a young wizard to move forward in life, and joke wands aren't part of that.



When Mr. Crouch doesn't know Percy's name, even though it's implied that Percy has been in his office for about three months, it shows that Mr. Crouch doesn't think much of individuals below him in rank. This suggests that Crouch only gives time and attention to wizards he considers worthwhile--and that even perfect Percy isn't worthy of his attention.



Bagman tries to talk about the other event that they're organizing, but Mr. Crouch insists that not all the details have been finalized and they can't tell anyone yet. He finally cuts Bagman off, thanks Percy for the tea, and leads Bagman away. Throughout the rest of the day, the excitement in the air intensifies and the Ministry stops trying to prevent people from performing magic. Ron purchases Ireland souvenirs as well as a figurine of Viktor Krum, while Harry buys both Ron and Hermione Omnioculars, which allow a person to slow down action and provide play-by-play breakdowns.

It's telling that Percy idolizes Mr. Crouch so much, even though Mr. Crouch isn't particularly kind to him. This suggests that Percy is beginning to internalize that this is an appropriate way to treat people who are less powerful than him, which doesn't bode well for Percy as an adult in the world. With this, the novel shows how role models can function to show young people what they can be as they grow, even when those examples may not be positive.



CHAPTER EIGHT

Mr. Weasley leads his group towards the giant stadium, explaining that it seats a hundred thousand. An official points the group straight up the stairs to the top of the stadium. Harry looks around the box to see whom they're sitting with and sees a creature wearing a tea towel. Incredulously he asks, "Dobby?" but the house-elf introduces herself as Winky, a friend of Dobby's. She says that freedom isn't suiting Dobby well, as he wants to be paid. Winky looks horrified at Harry's blank look and says that house-elves never get paid. She says that house-elves are meant to obey, just like she is currently doing--she hates heights, but she's in the box because her master sent her there.

The size of the stadium puts it in the top ten largest sports stadiums in the world, were it compared against Muggle stadiums. Again, this functions to show how large the Wizarding population is worldwide and show how popular Quidditch is among the Wizarding population. Winky reintroduces Harry and the reader to house-elves and how they move through life. Unlike Dobby, however, Winky seems fully accepting of the status quo, a view which will become important later.



The box fills over the next half hour and when Cornelius Fudge arrives, he greets Harry warmly. He tries to introduce Harry to the Bulgarian minister, but there appears to be a massive language barrier. He says that Winky is Mr. Crouch's house-elf and as Lucius Malfoy arrives with his wife and Draco, he greets them too. Mr. Weasley and Mr. Malfoy greet each other coldly. Minutes after they take their seats, Ludo Bagman races into the box, magnifies his voice, and announces the beginning of the Quidditch World Cup. He announces the display from the Bulgarian team mascots: veela. The veela are the most beautiful women that Harry has ever seen, and he becomes entranced by their dancing and wants to do something impressive.

The fact that the veela have an effect on Harry at all suggests that physically and emotionally, he's beginning to develop and approach puberty. This then heralds the other changes to come later on as Harry continues to develop and mature. Bagman's habit of racing in at the last moment for things suggests that he doesn't necessarily think highly of other people's time--in other words, he's not particularly empathetic or thoughtful when it comes to his coworkers or, in this case, the rest of the Wizarding world.



Bagman announces the Irish mascots and a huge comet takes the field and turns into a rainbow. Mr. Weasley shouts that the rainbow is made up of leprechauns, who begin to throw gold down onto the crowds. Ron throws an armful of gold at Harry to pay for his Omnioculars as the leprechauns sit across the field from the veela. Then, Bagman announces the Bulgarian team, the Irish team, and the Egyptian referee. Through his Omnioculars, Harry watches the referee set the balls loose and start the match. The Irish team is exceptional and scores 30 points in the first ten minutes. Everyone gasps as the Seekers dive toward the ground, but Krum pulls out at the last minute. The Irish Seeker crashes. Harry consults his Omnioculars, which says that Krum's move is called the Wronski Feint.

Once the Irish Seeker is cleared to fly, the Irish Chasers score ten more goals. As play turns dirty, the referee awards penalties to both teams. After a nasty argument between the referee and two Bulgarian players, the veela turn into scaly, angry birds. The Irish score more points and an Irish Beater hits a Bludger at Krum, hitting him square in the nose. The Irish Seeker dives again, Krum in pursuit, and once again the Irish player crashes. Krum pulls out of the dive with the Snitch, ending the game but letting Ireland win because they were so far ahead. The crowd celebrates and Harry hears the Bulgarian Minister sigh that his team fought bravely. Fudge is incensed to learn he speaks English after all.

Two wizards carry a huge gold cup into the top box and the Bulgarian players enter the box to shake hands with the Ministers. The Irish team arrives next to accept the cup. Once Bagman returns his voice to its normal volume, he gives Fred and George the money they won from their bet.

CHAPTER NINE

Mr. Weasley begs Fred and George to not tell Mrs. Weasley they've been gambling. They answer that they have big plans, and Mr. Weasley decides not to ask. The group stays up late talking until Ginny falls asleep at the table. Harry dreams about playing in the World Cup but jerks awake to Mr. Weasley shouting. He can tell that something has changed outside; people are screaming and running. They run out of the tent and Harry sees people fleeing from a group of wizards who are wearing masks and elevating four people high above them. Two of the elevated people seem to be children. As the group approaches, Harry recognizes the man as Mr. Roberts and a wizard flips Mr. Roberts's wife upside down to reveal her underwear.

The Omnioculars help Harry to make sense of the Wizarding world he now sees in front him and, especially, give him deeper insight into the game he loves. This shows how, as Harry spends more time out in the community like this, he'll be able to use what he learns and bring it back to school so that, in the future, he'll be able to replicate this on the Quidditch field for the Quidditch Cup. In this way, the Wizarding world as a whole becomes Harry's classroom and expands his views.



While the novel plays the Bulgarian Minister's choice to pretend he doesn't speak English for laughs, it is important to note that by choosing to not engage with Fudge, it means that Fudge and the Bulgarian Minister weren't able to form a truly open and communicative relationship during the game, which is presumably one of the goals of having a Quidditch World Cup at all.



Note that the Wizarding world does honor Muggle international boundaries; they don't have their own countries. This suggests that the Wizarding world is very connected to the Muggle one.



Fred and George's "big plans" presumably include developing more joke products, which shows that they fully intend to go against their mother's wishes and forge their own way forward in the world. The reader later learns that the masked wizards are Death Eaters, Voldemort's supporters. When they flip Mrs. Roberts upside down, it suggests that there's an undercurrent of sexual violence in Voldemort's overt violence against Muggles and Muggle-born wizards.



Mr. Weasley tells Fred, George, Ron, Harry, Hermione, and Ginny to head for the woods while he, Percy, Bill, and Charlie help the Ministry. After Ron yelps with pain in the dark, Hermione lights her wand. Draco Malfoy shows himself, insults Ron's clumsy feet, and suggests that they move along so that Hermione won't be the masked wizards' next victim. Harry suggests that Malfoy's parents are part of the masked group as Hermione leads Harry and Ron away and into the throng of people. One teen asks Ron where Madame Maxime is in French. Hermione mutters "Beauxbatons," and explains to the boys that it's another magical school.

Harry digs in his pocket for his wand but discovers it's gone. He feels very vulnerable without it. Harry, Ron, and Hermione see Winky appear out of bushes, terrified of the "bad wizards" and looking as though she's moving with great difficulty. After she's gone, Harry muses that Winky probably couldn't move easily because she didn't ask for permission to hide. This sends Hermione into a fit about the unethical working conditions of house-elves. As she and Ron argue, Harry wonders if Malfoy is right and Hermione is in danger. They pass a group of young men trying to impress some veela and finally find themselves alone in the woods.

Harry suggests that they can safely stay put just as Ludo Bagman Apparates in front of them. He's shocked to hear that there's a riot going on and Disapparates immediately. Hermione frowns. In the darkness, they hear and sense someone in the bushes. The person shouts "Morsmordre" and a glittering green skull with a snake for a tongue flies into the sky. People start to scream as Hermione, panicked, explains that it's the Dark Mark. Before the three can run, a number of wizards appear around them. They duck in time to miss the wizards' curses and after a few seconds, Mr. Weasley yells for the group to stop.

Mr. Crouch, obviously enraged, asks who conjured the Dark Mark and berates Harry, Ron, and Hermione. He seems to be the only one convinced that any of the teens conjured the Mark and when Hermione points towards where the conjuror stood, several others investigate the dark woods. Mr. Diggory emerges from the trees with Winky unconscious in his arms. Mr. Crouch investigates where she was found while Mr. Diggory tells Mr. Weasley that Winky had a wand and therefore could've created the Mark. Ludo Bagman Apparates to the scene and Mr. Diggory revives Winky.

The undercurrents of sexual violence become important here when Malfoy underhandedly threatens Hermione specifically--she's at risk not just because her parents are Muggles, but because she's female. This shows that Malfoy at least recognizes that Hermione is growing up and will be at risk of prejudice because of her maturing and developing body.



Because Hermione is a total outsider to Wizarding culture, having been raised by Muggle parents, she looks at the lives of house-elves differently than someone like Ron, who grew up knowing of their existence, does. For Hermione, learning about house-elves opens her eyes to the ways in which Wizarding society isn't fair and just, while in Ron's estimation, Hermione is getting worked up over a normal part of life.



It's telling that Hermione is the only one of the trio who grasps the gravity of seeing the Dark Mark in the sky. Though it's easy to infer that this is because she's likely read about the Mark and knows what it means (Voldemort, in short), it's also interesting that Ron doesn't seem to get it. This indicates that Wizarding society from Voldemort's downfall to the present has been successfully able to insulate its children from Voldemort's terror.



When Mr. Crouch accuses the trio of conjuring the Dark Mark, it indicates that he's one to act first and think critically about what he's doing later--Harry, as an orphan thanks to Voldemort, is one of the least likely people to conjure the Mark or support Voldemort. When Mr. Diggory suggests that Winky created the Mark, it shows more critical thinking than Mr. Crouch exhibited, given that he's putting together evidence to reach a logical conclusion.



Winky starts sobbing immediately and denies conjuring the Mark. As Mr. Diggory shows her the wand they found in her hand, Harry recognizes it as his. Mr. Diggory accuses Harry of conjuring the Mark but soon walks this back. After a few more minutes of interrogation, Hermione tells Mr. Diggory that the voice she heard was far deeper than Winky's. Mr. Diggory makes Harry's wand show the last spell it performed--revealing the Dark Mark--and again accuses Winky. Mr. Weasley and Mr. Crouch both insist that this is ridiculous and Mr. Crouch takes offense at the implication that he taught Winky to conjure the Mark.

With Mr. Weasley's gentle questioning, Winky shares that she found the wand in the trees where she was cursed, but she trembles when asked if she saw anyone. She insists she didn't. Mr. Crouch asks to deal with Winky himself rather than turn her over to the Ministry and threatens her with clothes, which will free her. Hermione tries to defend Winky, but Mr. Crouch won't hear it. Mr. Diggory gives Harry his wand and Mr. Weasley herds the trio out of the woods, brushing off Hermione's concern for Winky.

At the edge of the wood, scared wizards ask Mr. Weasley for information. He refuses to give any and when they reach the tent, they discover that Fred, George, and Ginny already made it back. Mr. Weasley explains what just happened and Ron expresses confusion about the significance of the Mark. Mr. Weasley explains that it used to signal death. Bill says that they saved the Roberts family but can't prove who the Death Eaters (Voldemort's supporters) were tonight, while Mr. Weasley tells Harry that they were tormenting Muggles for fun. After a discussion of who might have conjured the Mark, Mr. Weasley sends everyone to bed.

CHAPTER TEN

Mr. Weasley wakes everyone early and herds them out of the campsite. They get an early Portkey, land back on the hill, and walk toward the Burrow. Mrs. Weasley meets them in the lane in tears with a copy of the *Daily Prophet* article about "scenes of terror." She hugs Fred and George tightly and apologizes for her behavior the day before. When everyone is in the kitchen, Mr. Weasley scans the *Prophet* article, which was written by Rita Skeeter, and sees that she wrote about rumors of bodies. Annoyed, he notes that there were no bodies but now there will definitely be rumors. He and Percy leave for work at the Ministry.

Though the reader doesn't know Mr. Crouch's history with Death Eaters and Dark wizards at this point, his offense at Mr. Diggory's accusation (combined with his uptight appearance and Percy's idolization) implies that he's likely made his name speaking out against Death Eaters. As Hermione defends Winky, she begins to question the authority of the adults around her and trust her own voice and interpretation, suggesting that she's beginning to understand that adults aren't always right.



The reader later learns that in this moment, Winky disobeyed Crouch in major ways, but that she did so while trying to fulfill her duties. When Crouch fires her seemingly without listening to her side of the story, it shows that Crouch is willing to put his own power and status above an elf who has served him well for years.



When Ron is confused about the Mark, it reinforces the novel's assertion that the last thirteen years have been extremely safe for Wizarding children, and they haven't lived with the fear that their parents did. For the adults at the Tournament, seeing the Mark likely brought back a sense of terror they haven't felt in over a decade, something that, as Ron grows up, he's going to have to learn to understand and empathize with.



Mr. Weasley's interpretation of what Rita Skeeter's article has done shows that he understands the power of the media to influence how people interpret events: because Skeeter is a known journalist writing in a well-known newspaper, she's able to shape reality by writing things like this that question what actually happened.



Harry asks Mrs. Weasley if Hedwig has arrived and when he learns she hasn't, he asks Hermione and Ron to accompany him upstairs. There, he tells them about his scar hurting a few nights ago, but leaves out that Voldemort is planning to kill him. Harry notes that this falls into line with Trelawney's prediction last year that Voldemort would return with the help of his servant, Wormtail. He says he's expecting a letter from Sirius and feels very worried. Ron suggests a game of Quidditch and Harry jumps at the chance.

Harry's questioning of whether he should take Trelawney seriously shows that he's beginning to expand his horizons and understand that a variety of different people have valuable things to say, even if those people don't seem particularly trustworthy from the outset.



Mr. Weasley and Percy are at work much of the next week. One evening, when Percy is home and Mr. Weasley is at work, Percy insinuates that Mr. Weasley has to work harder to make up for making an "unwise" public statement, but Bill calmly notes that Rita Skeeter would've made Mr. Weasley look bad in the paper no matter what he said. Mr. Weasley arrives home moments later and as he eats his dinner, he tells everyone that Skeeter has finally learned that Bertha Jorkins is missing and so is making trouble.

Percy's assessment of Mr. Weasley's statement shows that he's becoming more like Mr. Crouch than Mrs. Weasley would probably like him to be. This reinforces that young people, even when they're in their late teens like Percy is, are vulnerable to influence from all manner of individuals--and that that can be a bad thing, depending on who they're around.



Mr. Weasley notes that it's lucky Rita Skeeter hasn't found out what happened with Winky, which sparks an argument on house-elf welfare between Hermione and Percy. Mrs. Weasley breaks it up by sending everyone upstairs to pack. Harry worries out loud about Sirius as he packs underwear and his new books into his trunk. Ron unwraps a parcel containing what looks like a maroon velvet dress, complete with lace cuffs and collar. Mrs. Weasley arrives with more laundry and explains that the garment is dress robes. Harry opens his dress robes; they're the same style as his school robes but green. Ron is distraught and Mrs. Weasley shouts that she didn't have much choice, since Ron's robes are secondhand. Embarrassed, Harry looks away.

Percy's agreement with Mr. Crouch firing Winky shows that he's already bought into the idea that the way that house-elves live in Wizarding society is good and normal. Given what the reader has seen of house-elves at this point, Percy's acceptance of the system functions to make Hermione look more righteous and as though she has the right idea, while Percy looks like he's following along with the old guard. It is worth noting that given Percy's trajectory, he has no reason to question things: he could one day have a house-elf of his own if he's successful at the Ministry.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

The next morning, Harry enters the kitchen to see Mr. Weasley taking an urgent message from the Ministry. Mr. Diggory's head is sitting in the fire, talking about someone named Mad-Eye, "please-men," and rogue dustbins. Mr. Diggory says that Mad-Eye is starting his new job today and he has to get off on a minor charge. As Mr. Weasley races away, Mrs. Weasley gives Mr. Diggory a piece of toast and he disappears out of the fire. The Weasley children discuss Mad-Eye Moody; George calls him crazy while Bill points out that he's a friend of Dumbledore's. Charlie tells Harry that Mad-Eye used to be a skilled Auror (a Dark wizard catcher) but now, he's paranoid about everything.

Notice the way that the Weasley children talk about Mad-Eye Moody. George's assessment that Moody is crazy, especially combined with Charlie saying that Moody is paranoid tells Harry that Moody isn't necessarily someone that he should trust. Notably, Charlie is the only one who tries to make sense of why Moody is so paranoid now--being an Auror is likely an emotionally taxing job. This suggests that the other Weasley children haven't yet developed enough empathy to feel for Moody.



Mrs. Weasley hires three Muggle taxis to take her and the children to King's Cross. On platform nine and three-quarters, Charlie cryptically says that he'll be seeing everyone soon, but he and Bill refuse to say anything else except that it's going to be an interesting year. On the train, Hermione, Ron, and Harry hear Malfoy telling someone that his father wanted to send him to Durmstrang, but his mother didn't want him to go so far away. Hermione pulls their door closed and says that Durmstrang has a horrendous reputation for dark magic. She informs Ron that nobody knows where Durmstrang is, as most magical schools, including Hogwarts, are Unplottable and can't be mapped.

Seamus, Dean, and Neville join Harry, Ron, and Hermione to talk about the Quidditch World Cup. Ron shows Neville his figure of Krum but as he starts to tell him about being in the top box, Malfoy appears. Malfoy teases Ron about his dress robes and asks Ron and Harry if they're going to enter. Ron and Harry don't know what Malfoy is talking about, which delights Malfoy. Laughing, he leaves, but Ron is in a bad mood for the rest of the journey.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Neville share a carriage up to the Hogwarts entrance. They race through the pouring rain but as soon as they make it into the entrance hall, Peeves starts pelting students with water bombs. Nearly Headless Nick warmly greets the students at the Gryffindor table and Colin Creevy, who idolizes Harry, excitedly shares that his brother Dennis is starting this year. Harry notices that there are a number of empty seats at the staff table as McGonagall leads a line of soaked first-years into the hall. One tiny boy whom Harry ascertains is Dennis is wearing Hagrid's moleskin coat.

McGonagall sets the Sorting Hat on a stool and it sings a song about the school's founding and the qualities of the different Houses. Then, McGonagall calls the names of the students and the hat sorts them each into one of the four school Houses. After Dennis is sorted into Gryffindor, he excitedly tells Colin that he fell in the lake. As Ron, Harry, and Hermione fill their plates with food, Nearly Headless Nick explains that they're lucky there's a feast at all: Peeves created mayhem in the kitchens earlier and terrified the house-elves. Hermione is shocked to hear this and when she learns that the elves don't get pay, sick leave, or pensions, she refuses to eat.

When Malfoy mentions Durmstrang without any explanation as to what it is, both Harry and the reader have the opportunity to learn from Hermione that Durmstrang is a school of magic like Hogwarts. This allows the reader to closely follow Harry as he comes of age through learning about the Wizarding world.



It's telling that everyone in the compartment is kind to Neville and doesn't treat him differently because he's not a competent wizard. This suggests that the boys in the compartment have the capacity to behave kindly, though Malfoy's teasing of Ron suggests that he doesn't have that capacity yet.



While relatively low-stakes in the grand scheme of the novel, the things that Harry is able to deduce during the pre-feast time (that they're missing teachers, which first-year is Dennis) reinforces for the reader that Harry already has a firm grounding in being able to think critically about what he sees and come to conclusions using the evidence in front of him.



This is the last year that the Sorting Hat sings a song that is purely informational; in future books, it sings songs of warning. This mirrors Harry's coming of age over the course of the series as, going forward, Harry will be older, more mature, and thinking more critically about what he sees around him. Hermione's refusal to eat shows her experimenting with different forms of protest. It's also important to keep in mind that she seems to assume that the elves are treated poorly like Winky was; she doesn't consider whether the elves might be happy.



After the feast, Dumbledore stands and addresses the students. He says that the Quidditch Cup won't take place this year but before he can announce what will take its place, the doors open and a grizzled man with one wooden leg starts walking toward Dumbledore. He has one normal eye and one that's large, blue, and can swivel in every direction. The man shakes Dumbledore's hand and takes a seat at the staff table. Dumbledore introduces him as the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Professor Moody.

Dumbledore resumes his speech and says that this year, Hogwarts will host the Triwizard Tournament. He explains that the Tournament was established 700 years ago as a competition between the Wizarding schools Hogwarts, Beauxbatons, and Durmstrang. It hasn't happened for centuries as the death toll rose, but this time, there are safety measures in place. Nobody under the age of seventeen will be able to enter, and it will be impossible to hoodwink the "impartial judge" who will choose a champion from each school. Fred and George mutter angrily. Dumbledore says that students from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang will arrive in October and the selection will take place on Halloween.

On the way up to the common room, Fred and George angrily say that they're going to enter anyway, since they'll turn seventeen in April. Ron says he'd consider entering too as Neville says his grandmother would like him to, but he hasn't learned enough. In the common room, Hermione sees the fireplace and mutters "slave labor" as she heads for bed. The boys go to their dormitory and as he lies in bed, Harry imagines himself winning the Triwizard Tournament.

Moody's terrifying appearance shows the students what the cost is of fighting Dark wizards, as it's implied that most of his scars and his missing leg are souvenirs of a life tracking down evil. This suggests that while it's difficult to do the right thing and fight for good, some people, like Moody, believe it's worth sacrificing their health for the wellbeing of society.



Though the Wizarding World is relatively isolated from the Muggle world it lives inside, the "safety measures" Dumbledore mentions mirror movements in the 1990s and onward to protect children and make life safer for them. Again, this suggests that though the Wizarding world is a separate entity from its neighbors, in some ways it does follow trends set by Muggles.



Harry's dreams of winning the Tournament are, at this point, just dreams. His dreams illustrate how young he still is and how fanciful this seems at this point, given that he's put no thought into the practicalities of how he'd enter. This shows that at this point, Harry is happy being a child and doesn't truly want the responsibility of competing.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

At breakfast the next morning, Ron reads their schedules. They have Herbology, Care of Magical Creatures with the Slytherins, and Divination in the afternoon. When Ron comments that Hermione is eating, she says that there are better ways to protest. Harry scans the mail owls, doesn't see Hedwig, and is preoccupied all through Herbology. At the start of Care of Magical Creatures, Hagrid greets the class with their first creature: baby Blast-Ended Skrewts. They look like deformed lobsters that shoot sparks out of their rear ends. Harry, Ron, and Hermione defend them to Malfoy, who thinks they're nasty.

Hermione's comment that there are better ways to protest suggests that she's already been researching different movements from history and will choose to draw on elements of them as she moves forward to fight for house-elf rights. However, it's important to keep in mind that the novel hasn't yet shared any history of protest or organization with the reader. This suggests that Hermione will draw on Muggle histories of protest, which will be foreign to the Wizarding world.



At lunch, Hermione eats quickly and then races to the library. Harry and Ron head for North Tower and Divination. To start the class, Professor Trelawney tells Harry that she sees difficult times ahead for him. Ron rolls his eyes as Trelawney explains how to read the future in the stars and planets, but Harry loses himself wondering if there's more to Trelawney than he's given her credit for. He snaps back to attention when she tries to insist that his bad fortune means that he must've been born under Saturn in midwinter. Harry was born in July. She gives the class blank charts to fill in the position of the planets at the time of their birth. Ron makes a rude joke about Uranus and Trelawney hears him. She assigns lots of homework because of this.

As students wait in the entrance hall for dinner, Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle wave a copy of the *Daily Prophet* at Ron, say that Mr. Weasley is in the paper, and reads part of a Rita Skeeter article out loud. Skeeter gives an incorrect first name for Mr. Weasley and suggests that he stepped out of line to help Moody. Malfoy insults Mrs. Weasley's weight in the accompanying photo, which Harry returns by insulting Malfoy's mother. As Harry turns away, Malfoy shoots a curse at the back of his head.

Before Harry can draw his wand, Moody comes down the stairs and shouts at Malfoy. Harry turns to see that there's a white ferret where Malfoy was. After checking that Harry is okay, Moody levitates the ferret and bounces it up and down, reprimanding Malfoy for behaving like a coward. As she comes down the stairs, McGonagall asks incredulously if the ferret is a student and yells at Moody for using Transfiguration as punishment. At this, Moody turns Malfoy back into a human. He angrily says that he'll speak to Snape about Malfoy's behavior. Ron deems this the best moment of his life. Hermione again eats quickly and runs to the library, and Fred takes her place. He and George had a lesson with Moody earlier and they say that he's an impressive teacher.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

In Potions the next day, Neville melts his sixth cauldron and Snape gives him detention for it. Ron and Harry know that Snape is so vindictive because of Moody, whose job he wants and whom Snape seems oddly afraid of. On Thursday, the Gryffindors have their first class with Moody. Harry, Ron, and Hermione sit right in front with quills ready, but as Moody enters the room, he tells the class to put their writing utensils away. He takes roll and then says that Professor Lupin sent him a letter detailing what they learned last year, and this year, he's going to teach them about curses.

Once again, when Harry wonders whether he should give Trelawney another chance and take her seriously, it shows that he's beginning to consider the perspectives of others as he figures out where he stands in his world. However, when Trelawney so poorly makes the prediction about Harry's birth month, it instead shows Harry that he shouldn't trust her and that she's a fraud, thereby making him feel justified (and Ron as well) in being rude and short with her.



This article of Rita Skeeter's again shows the reader that anything Skeeter writes shouldn't be taken seriously, given that she can't even get names correct. It's also important to see how Malfoy weaponizes Skeeter's article to torment Ron--going forward, this will help illustrate how Skeeter mobilizes individuals to make her articles even more dangerous.



Knowing that this isn't actually Moody and is instead Barty Crouch, a Death Eater who loathes other Death Eaters who avoided Azkaban, gives this scene more meaning: Lucius Malfoy avoided Azkaban, meaning that he's one of Barty Crouch's targets and doing this to Malfoy is a way for Barty Crouch to get revenge. This shows how Barty Crouch as Moody uses his station to abuse his power completely, even beyond orchestrating Harry's performance in the Triwizard Tournament later. Again, this shows that being evil and cruel is a choice, not a set state of being.



Harry's recognition that Snape is afraid of Moody suggests that the two have history together, while the fact that Harry picks up on this at all speaks to his growing critical thinking skills. As a teacher, Moody shows that he understands that his job is to prepare students to deal with the world they live in, one in which curses abound. This demonstrates his recognition that these fourth year students are at a point in their lives where they're ready to accept these hard truths about their world.



Moody says that the Ministry of Magic wants him to only teach countercurses, but Dumbledore wants the students exposed to illegal Dark curses now. He asks the students to name illegal curses. Ron names the Imperius Curse and at this, Moody pulls a large spider out of a jar. After muttering "*Imperio*," he makes the spider perform cartwheels and dance. Everyone laughs until Moody growls that a victim can be made to do anything, including kill themselves. When he asks for another curse, both Hermione and Neville raise their hands. Neville offers the Cruciatus Curse and confirms that his last name is Longbottom.

Moody makes the second spider bigger before performing the curse on it. When he does, the spider twitches, rocks, and jerks in pain. Hermione shrilly yells for Moody to stop and Harry sees that Hermione's eyes are fixed on Neville, who looks more horrified than anyone else. Moody returns the spider to its normal size and then asks for the final curse. Hermione gives it: Avada Kedavra. This is the Killing Curse and Moody uses it to kill the final spider in his jar. It dies in a rush of green light and Moody explains that there's no way to block this one.

Harry realizes that this is how his parents died and loses himself in thought. He returns to the present as Moody says that his goal isn't to teach the class the curses, but to teach them what's out there in the world. He says that the three curses are known as the Unforgivable Curses and using one lands a person in Azkaban for life. The class takes notes until the period is over and as the Gryffindors spill into the hallway, most of them discuss the lesson as though they'd seen something fantastic. Harry and Hermione don't agree, and Hermione leads Ron and Harry towards Neville. Neville's voice is high and he seems strange and distant. Moody approaches the students and invites Neville to join him for tea. He leads Neville, who looks terrified, away.

After dinner, Hermione returns to the library and Ron and Harry return to Gryffindor Tower. Harry asks if Dumbledore will get in trouble for authorizing Moody to show them the curses, but Ron thinks both men will be fine. As they fetch their things for Divination, they find Neville reading a book about Mediterranean water plants that he got from Moody. He looks much calmer and says that Moody heard from Professor Sprout that Neville is excellent at Herbology. Harry and Ron begin their Divination homework, which entails making predictions about their next month. After an hour, they decide to make the predictions up. As Harry works, he notices Fred and George working in a corner. They almost look secretive and Harry overhears George say that they have to be careful not to sound accusatory.

By showing the students these curses, Moody makes the case that knowledge is power and the only way for the students to be properly prepared for adulthood is to have as much knowledge as possible. While none of the creatures that Lupin taught last year were evil, per se, the curses that Moody is talking about definitely are. This shows that a crucial part of coming of age is being able to handle the scarier parts of life.



Hermione's decision to ask Moody to stop his demonstration shows, first of all, how tuned in she is to her classmates' emotional needs. Then, standing up to a teacher suggests that as Hermione learns to not take the authority of books seriously, she's also learning that she doesn't always have to take teachers seriously--they're biased and human, just like books are.



The Gryffindors' interpretation of the lesson as being something fun again speaks to the success of the Wizarding world at keeping its young people from having to confront the horrifying past. For students like Neville and Harry, however, who live with the results of Voldemort's reign every day in very tangible ways, the past is already much closer to them. This suggests that in order for the other students to learn to appreciate these curses and the evil they represent, they'll need to accept that the curses can horrifically change a person's life.



Ron's belief that both Dumbledore and Moody will be fine despite going against Ministry guidelines shows that at this point, Ron places more trust and faith in Dumbledore than he does in the Ministry; he believes that Dumbledore is exempt. This suggests that Dumbledore doesn't have to play by the same rules as other adults in the Wizarding world, given that he clearly ignores them. However, note that Ron isn't worried because he agrees that learning about the curses was valuable--this suggests that breaking rules for the sake of good and education is a noble endeavor.



A few minutes after Fred and George leave for bed, Hermione enters the common room with a sheaf of parchment and a box. She looks at Ron's predictions, notes that he's going to drown twice, and then finally shows them the contents of her box: badges that say "S.P.E.W." She explains that it stands for the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare, a group she's just started and needs Ron and Harry to join. Ron insists that house-elves are happy, but Hermione talks over him to say that their aims are to get fair wages and working conditions, as well as getting an elf into the Ministry to improve representation. She names Ron treasurer and Harry secretary.

Before either Harry or Ron can respond, Harry notices Hedwig at the window. She has a note from Sirius saying that he's coming north to be closer to Hogwarts, given the strange rumors he's heard. He also notes that Dumbledore is "reading the signs." Harry is furious; he doesn't want Sirius to return and get caught. He angrily goes to bed.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The next morning, Harry writes a short letter to Sirius insisting that it's unnecessary for him to return. He takes it to Hedwig in the Owlery and sends her off, and tells Hermione and Ron about what he did at breakfast. Harry tries not to worry over the next few weeks, though this is made easier by how hard he has to work at his lessons. One day, Moody announces that he's going to put the Imperius Curse on everyone in turn so they can practice resisting. Hermione tries to insist that it's not legal, but she backs down. When it's Harry's turn, Moody tells him to jump on a desk. Harry successfully resists the curse after a few tries.

McGonagall explains to the students that they're approaching the time when they'll take their Ordinary Wizarding Levels and need to be prepared. Most of the class is aghast, as they don't take their O.W.L.s until the end of their fifth year. Snape assigns work on antidotes and hints that he's going to poison a student soon to test them, while Professor Flitwick assigns extra reading on Summoning Charms. Hagrid asks students to come down in the evenings to observe the skrewts, which are growing despite not eating anything, and he reminds Malfoy that he makes a great ferret when Malfoy tries to refuse.

It's important to keep in mind that, like Percy, Ron stands to benefit from the system that enslaves house-elves and therefore, has little reason to stand up for them--and as far as he's concerned, the way things are is just fine. This suggests that if Hermione is going to be truly successful in her endeavor, she has a great deal of consciousness-raising to do among wizards, as they must realize that they need to treat elves with kindness and compassion.



Sirius's use of "reading the signs" begins to open up the idea of reading critically to other types of reading--in this case, Sirius is implying that a variety of things are going on that, taken together, point to trouble, and that a person can "read" this situation like a book.



Here, Hermione finds herself caught between going against a teacher and going against the rules, something that forces her to examine exactly what she wants to get out of this lesson. When she agrees to go along with Moody's lesson, it suggests that she's learning to trust individuals like Moody rather than blindly following the rules of large entities like the Ministry.



By bringing up the O.W.L.s, McGonagall tries to impress upon her students that the future is coming faster than they think it is, and that what they're learning in school right now is actually very important. On a more series-level scale, this indicates that everything students learn at Hogwarts will in theory prepare them for life in the adult WIZARDING world; there are no "just for fun" classes and test results are very important.



In the entrance hall one night, Ron reads an announcement about the Triwizard Tournament over the heads of other students crowded around. It says that on October 30, lessons will end early so that students can greet the guests from Durmstrang and Beauxbatons. Harry is thrilled, as this means that Snape won't be able to poison them. They hear a Hufflepuff student running off to tell Cedric and Ron expresses derision that Cedric is going to try to become the Hogwarts champion. Over the next week, rumors abound and the castle undergoes a thorough cleaning.

At breakfast on the morning of the 30th, Harry, Ron, and Hermione notice Fred and George sitting away from everyone else. The trio hears George saying that if "he" won't talk to them, they'll have to send a letter. Fred and George refuse to share who and what they're talking about, so Harry changes the subject to ask if the twins have thought more about how to enter. They haven't, but the boys all discuss the tasks and the judging. Hermione interjects that three of the judges will be school headmasters, according to [Hogwarts: A History](#). She suggests that the book should actually be called *A Revised History of Hogwarts* and hisses that it makes no mention of house-elves.

Harry shakes his head and returns to his breakfast. Both he and Ron joined S.P.E.W. to appease Hermione but have remained unenthusiastic about the cause. Few others have joined. George asks Hermione if she's ever been to the kitchens and says that the elves there are happy. Hermione insists that the elves are brainwashed, but the argument dissolves when the post owls arrive. Hedwig brings Harry a letter from Sirius that says he's still coming back.

When lessons end in the afternoon, the Heads of Houses organize the students into lines. McGonagall leads the Gryffindors outside to wait with the rest of the school. After a few minutes, Dumbledore calls that Beauxbatons is coming. Students point to the sky as a massive horse-drawn carriage soars toward them. The horses are as big as elephants. After the carriage lands, a boy unfurls stairs and an elegant woman as large as Hagrid steps out. Dumbledore leads the Hogwarts students in applause and greets the woman, whom he calls Madame Maxime. She leads her shivering students inside.

A few minutes later, Lee Jordan points to the lake. A huge ship rises up from the depths. All the Durmstrang students seem bulky, but Harry realizes that this is because they're wearing fur cloaks. The headmaster, Karkaroff, greets Dumbledore and leads his student Viktor inside first, as he has a cold. Ron hisses that "Viktor" is Viktor Krum.

Ron's derisive comments about Cedric suggests that he's very invested in maintaining a sense of difference between the different Hogwarts Houses--at this point, Ron doesn't see a possible victory for Cedric as a victory for him too, though their loyalty is to the same school. This shows that anyone, even Ron, can cling to these divisions in a way that makes him less empathetic towards others.



When Hermione begins suggesting other names for Hogwarts: A History that make it clear the text is biased and represents the perspective of only one person, it shows that she now understands that she can't take everything she reads at face value. Instead, she needs to go forward understanding that it's necessary to critically evaluate books for bias and authorial intent, but that having to do so doesn't mean that books aren't useful.



The text implies here that Hermione hasn't been to the kitchens, which indicates that she's waging war for house-elf liberation without having consulted the very beings she wants to support. This is Hermione's major oversight, as George makes a good point: S.P.E.W. is useless unless it does something the elves actually want.



The fact that Madame Maxime is the headmistress of a renowned Wizarding school shows that not everyone of Hagrid's size needs to be relegated to the role of gamekeeper; it seems that Maxime is a competent witch.



The realization that Viktor Krum is still a student helps to bring him down a little from his celebrity and make him more relatable for fans like Harry and Ron. In other words, the fact that Krum is in the same boat as they are makes him easier to empathize with.



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Ron is beside himself about Viktor Krum as the Hogwarts students file inside. The Beauxbatons students sit at the Ravenclaw table, while the Durmstrang students sit with the Slytherins. Harry notices Filch adding four extra chairs to the head table and wonders who else is coming. The teachers file in and after they take their seats, Dumbledore addresses the students. He welcomes the guests and the feast begins. There are a number of foreign dishes on the table, which Ron refuses to touch. A girl from Beauxbatons approaches Ron and asks if she can take the bouillabaisse. Ron mouths wordlessly at her and lets her take it. He insists the girl is a veela, which makes both Harry and Hermione laugh.

Hermione points out that the extra two seats have been filled by Mr. Crouch and Bagman, and says that they likely organized the event. After the feast ends, Dumbledore introduces them, as they'll be the two other judges for the Tournament. He then asks Filch to bring in "the casket." Filch carries in a huge, jewel-encrusted chest. Dumbledore explains that one champion from each school will be chosen by the Goblet of Fire, and he pulls a large cup filled with blue flames out of the casket. He says that interested students can put in their names and to keep underage students from trying, he'll draw an Age Line around the goblet. In closing, he reminds the student that putting one's name in creates a binding contract and a person can't back out if they're chosen.

Fred and George scoff at the Age Line and discuss using an Aging Potion. They ask Harry if he'll try to get in and Harry wonders if Dumbledore would be angry if someone younger managed to fool the Age Line. Ron scans the crowd looking for Krum and sees the Durmstrang students heading back to their ship. Karkaroff offers Krum mulled wine and snaps at another student who asks for some. Harry steps aside to let Karkaroff through the door first, but Karkaroff stops to stare for a moment. From behind them, Moody growls that it's Harry Potter and when he sees Moody, Karkaroff looks scared and angry. Karkaroff sweeps his students away.

Ron's reaction to the Beauxbatons girl again reminds the reader that he's beginning to mature sexually and have romantic thoughts about people, heralding another aspect of his coming of age. His inability to speak to her effectively, however, points to how young and immature Ron still is. The fact that Hermione and Harry can laugh at Ron implies that they may be slightly more mature in this regard, or at least aware of how immature Ron looks.



While the novel suggests that it's an important part of a young person's development to learn to question people and books, the way that Dumbledore talks about the Goblet of Fire suggests that the things that are exempt from this kind of questioning are magical objects like the Goblet and Harry's Sneakoscope in the previous novel. In this way, these magical objects come to act as outside observers and markers of right and wrong, given that the Goblet's entire purpose is to choose the worthiest candidate from each school.



The way that Karkaroff treats Krum and his other student who asks for mulled wine indicates that he's unashamed about playing favorites and doing so openly. This shows that he's unconcerned with treating his students equally and as though they're all people worthy of attention and instead, focuses his attentions on those who are already especially powerful. This is confirmed when Karkaroff fixates on Harry here; Harry is famous like Krum is.



The next day, Saturday, most students eat breakfast early and admire the goblet, which is surrounded by a thin gold line. A third year girl says that everyone from Durmstrang has put in their name but she hasn't seen anyone from Hogwarts. Harry notes that if he were putting his name in, he'd do it at night so nobody would see. Hearing a laugh, Harry turns and sees Fred, George, and Lee coming down the stairs having just taken their Aging Potions. Hermione warns them that Dumbledore would've thought of this, but Fred jumps over the line. George joins him and a moment later, the twins are ejected from the circle and sprout long beards. Everyone, including Dumbledore, laughs.

In the Great Hall, Harry, Ron, and Hermione discuss with Dean and Seamus that Cedric Diggory and the Slytherin Quidditch captain put their names in. They see Angelina Johnson, a Gryffindor Chaser, looking embarrassed. She tells the table that she just had her birthday and so put her name in.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to visit Hagrid, and Hermione runs upstairs to get her S.P.E.W. badges. As Harry and Ron wait, they watch Madame Maxime supervise as all her students submit their names. Hermione arrives in time for the trio to follow the Beauxbatons students back to their carriage. When Hagrid answers the door, Hermione is dumbfounded: Hagrid is wearing his best suit and has his bushy hair slicked down. He happily tells them that the skrewts are now three feet long and starting to kill each other, so he only has 20 left.

As Hagrid makes tea, they discuss the Triwizard Tournament. Hagrid knows what the first task will be, but he refuses to say. Harry, Ron, and Hermione stay through the afternoon and Hagrid refuses Hermione's request that he join S.P.E.W. He insists that it'd be unkind to free elves and insulting to pay them. When she offers Dobby as an example of what she's trying to do, Hagrid notes that Dobby is strange. Finally, around five o'clock, they decide it's time to head to the feast. Hagrid puzzlingly puts on cologne before they go and then leaves the trio to walk up with Madame Maxime.

When the feast is over, Dumbledore gets to his feet and explains that when the goblet chooses, the champions should proceed to a small room off the hall. The goblet's flames turn red and a piece of parchment flutters into Dumbledore's hand. He announces that Viktor Krum is the Durmstrang champion. A moment later, he reads that Fleur Delacour will be the Beauxbatons champion. Finally, he says that Cedric Diggory will represent Hogwarts. Dumbledore starts to address the remaining students, but the goblet turns red again and spits out one more piece of parchment that reads, "Harry Potter."

Hermione's comment that Dumbledore would've put precautions in place against Aging Potions shows that even as she's learning to question authority and authority figures, she still trusts Dumbledore to follow through on his word and protect his students. Dumbledore's sense of humor about Fred and George's attempt shows that though he has the power to punish them, he understands how important this could be to them and wants them to know that trying isn't a crime.



When the students discuss who of their number should be the Hogwarts champion, it creates an environment in which they're asked to make judgments about each other and don't have to be kind to their classmates.



Hagrid's groomed appearance indicates that, though he's an adult and has already undergone puberty, he's embarking on a similar journey to the trio's: it's implied that he's romantically interested in Madame Maxime. By exploring how Hagrid handles these feelings going forward, the novel is able to show that some of the struggles of puberty don't end there and actually continue into adulthood.



Again, just as with Percy and Ron, Hagrid's refusal to join S.P.E.W. likely stems from the fact that he has little reason to free individuals he benefits from, though it's also telling that he gives Hermione a reason from the house-elves' perspective. By insisting that it would be unkind and insulting for S.P.E.W. to achieve its aims, he underhandedly encourages Hermione to work with the house-elves, not for them in this manner.



The simple fact that the impartial judge deems Cedric Diggory the most worthy candidate among all Hogwarts students tells the reader that, though Ron thinks little of Cedric, the reader should be open to the possibility that Cedric has more to offer than previously thought. When Harry's name comes out, it shows that even this impartial magical object can be fooled and isn't entirely trustworthy.



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Harry sits blankly and tells Ron and Hermione that he didn't put his name in. There's no applause, but Dumbledore calls for Harry to follow the other champions. Harry trips on his robes as he gets up and walks through the doors. Fleur, Krum, and Cedric stand by the fireplace, looking impressive and mature. Fleur addresses Harry as though he's a messenger and moments later, Bagman excitedly enters and introduces Harry as the fourth champion. The other three look bewildered and angry. Bagman, however, smiles and says that Harry's obligated to compete.

Dumbledore, Mr. Crouch, Madame Maxime, Karkaroff, Snape, and McGonagall interrupt Bagman as they enter the room. Madame Maxime and Karkaroff are furious, while Snape maliciously says that Harry has no respect for rules. Dumbledore silences Snape and asks Harry to confirm that he didn't put his name in the goblet. Both Maxime and Karkaroff accuse Dumbledore of making a mistake with his Age Line. Angrily, McGonagall insists that everyone should believe Harry.

Karkaroff asks Mr. Crouch for his opinion. Curtly, Mr. Crouch says that they must follow the rules; Harry must compete. Karkaroff insists that they set the Goblet of Fire up again until each school has two champions, but Bagman points out that it won't reignite until the next tournament. When Karkaroff threatens to leave, Moody enters and reminds him that the tournament is a binding magical contract and all the champions must compete. Moody insists that someone put Harry's name in, knowing he'd have to compete.

Maxime and Karkaroff insist that whoever put Harry's name in wants to give Hogwarts a better chance at winning, but Moody suggests that whoever did it might want Harry dead. Karkaroff points out that Moody sees assassination plots everywhere. The two argue but Dumbledore stops them and says that Harry still has to compete. Bagman is the only one who looks excited, and he asks Mr. Crouch to give the champions their instructions. Harry thinks that Mr. Crouch looks ill as he says that their first task will test their courage, that the champions cannot accept help, and that they'll be excused from final testing.

Everything that Harry thinks and does after learning that he's the fourth champion makes him seem very different from the other champions: in his immaturity and youth he trips on his robes and recognizes that the others are all young adults, not children. This suggests that going forward, Harry's goal will be to look just as mature and competent as his competitors.



When Dumbledore and McGonagall insist that everyone should believe Harry outright, it shows that both of them believe that their students, though they're children, are deserving of respect and trust just as adults are. This begins to distance Dumbledore from Maxime and Karkaroff, given that they suspect Harry of foul play.



Though Karkaroff's insistence on fairness and equity is admirable, it's telling that he finds Harry threatening at all. At fourteen, Harry is short at least three years of magical education and therefore shouldn't pose much of a threat to Krum's chances of winning. This suggests that Karkaroff and Maxime understand that youth isn't much of a handicap; what will matter is Harry's maturity.



While the adults in Harry's life have already established that Moody is somewhat paranoid, it's also important to note that what he's doing is examining all options available to him while not deciding on any one of them. This then offers Harry an example of how to interpret information, come up with a number of ideas, but also keep an open mind so that when more information arises, he can make a better decision.



Dumbledore sends Harry and Cedric to bed. On their way out, Cedric asks how Harry got his name in and seems unconvinced when Harry says he didn't put it in the goblet. Harry wonders if anyone is going to believe him and if he has any chance of surviving. He wonders if whoever put his name in the goblet wants him dead or just wants to make him look like a fool. Harry knows that Voldemort is after him, but can't figure out how Voldemort could've done this. He remembers his earlier dream and shudders.

Wondering if someone wants to make Harry look foolish reveals Harry's youth; as such a young competitor, it's unlikely that any adult aware of what's to come would hold it against a fourteen-year-old for performing poorly in this event. This shows that Harry is still youthfully self-centered and is overly concerned with how others perceive him.



In the common room, the Gryffindors are already celebrating. Nobody seems to care that Harry doesn't want to celebrate and Lee drapes a Gryffindor banner around Harry's shoulders. A half hour later, Harry angrily excuses himself to go to bed and find Ron. Ron is in the dormitory, grinning oddly. Harry rips off the Gryffindor banner as Ron offers congratulations and asks how Harry got across the Age Line. Ron insists that Harry can tell him the truth and won't listen when Harry says he didn't do it. Ron finally pulls his curtains shut around his bed, leaving Harry feeling more alone than ever.

For Ron, Harry getting chosen means that once again, Ron is relegated to the background and forced to accept that he and Harry are extremely different people in terms of fame and privilege. Before Harry's name came out, it seemed as though Harry and Ron were going to be on equal footing for once, given that they were both going to be spectators.



CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Harry wakes up the next morning feeling miserable. He leaves the common room and comes face to face with Hermione, who has toast with her and suggests they go for a walk. He tells her what happened the night before and is thrilled that she believes him. Hermione thinks that Moody is right and someone fooled the goblet. She also says that Ron is extremely jealous, since Harry always gets all the attention. This makes Harry angry, but Hermione tries to change the subject and insists that Harry write to Sirius. Though he doesn't want to, Harry finally agrees.

When Hermione tries to make Harry see that Ron is just jealous, she's trying to encourage Harry to understand the ways in which his fame and power function and make others feel. Though there isn't a real fix in this situation, this does lead Harry to, in the future, make decisions that won't alienate Ron or that will help Ron feel more successful.



During lessons the next day, everyone seems convinced that Harry put his own name in. Hufflepuff students are especially cold to all Gryffindors, while Ron refuses to speak to Harry at all. In Care of Magical Creatures, Malfoy taunts Harry that he's going to die during the Tournament. Fortunately, Hagrid's lesson plan--taking the skrewts for walks--distracts Malfoy. Hagrid tells Harry he believes that Harry didn't put his own name in, but he seems worried about Harry's prospects.

The fact that Hagrid, an adult that Harry trusts, fears for Harry's fate in the tournament suggests that what's to come will be far above what Harry is capable of doing at this point in his magical education. In other words, it reinforces how young and immature Harry is and situates this Tournament as the experience that will bring about Harry's coming of age.



Harry's next few days are horrendous, especially since Ron continues to ignore Harry. Harry understands why the Hufflepuffs hate him, especially since Cedric looks so much more like a champion. All of this is so distracting that Harry gets extra homework on Summoning Charms in Flitwick's class. When he and Hermione arrive in the dungeons for Potions, they see that every Slytherin student is wearing a badge that reads "Support Cedric Diggory--the REAL Hogwarts Champion!" When tapped, the badge changes to read "Potter Stinks." Ron doesn't stand up for Harry as the Slytherins laugh, but Hermione does. Malfoy insults her and Harry snaps. The boys shoot curses at each other that ricochet and hit Goyle and Hermione. Hermione's front teeth start growing rapidly.

Snape arrives and listens to Malfoy accuse Harry of attacking him. He sends Goyle to the hospital wing and, upon seeing Hermione's teeth, insists that he doesn't see a difference in her appearance. Hermione starts to cry and runs away. Both Harry and Ron shout at Snape and he gives them detention. Ron chooses to sit with Dean and Seamus rather than Harry. Harry is livid, especially when Snape insinuates that he's going to poison Harry today to test his antidote. However, before Harry can begin brewing, Colin Creevy arrives to fetch Harry for Bagman and the *Daily Prophet*.

Colin leads Harry to a classroom where there's an area set up for photos. Bagman leaps at the sight of Harry and explains that it's time to weigh the champions' wands to test that they're in good condition. He introduces Harry to Rita Skeeter, who's working on a piece for the *Daily Prophet*. She asks if she can interview Harry and leads him to a broom cupboard. She asks to use a [Quick-Quotes Quill](#) and stands the acid green quill upright on a piece of parchment. When she tests it by giving it her name, it writes observations about her appearance and reputation. The quill writes of its own accord as Skeeter asks questions that seek to paint Harry as a rebel and a loveable underdog. She asks about his parents and he notices the quill writing that he's crying, though he isn't. Fortunately, Dumbledore rescues Harry.

Harry takes a seat next to Cedric. Dumbledore introduces Mr. Ollivander, a Diagon Alley wand maker. He checks Fleur's wand first, then Krum's, Cedric's, and Harry's. All are in working order, and Harry is glad that Ollivander doesn't mention that Harry's wand shares a core with Voldemort's. The following photos take a long time to get right and when the adults finally release Harry, it's dinnertime. Harry eats alone and then returns to the dormitory. Ron briskly points out an owl for Harry and tells him about their detention arrangements with Snape. The letter is from Sirius and asks Harry to be alone by the fireplace late one night in November.

Harry's observation that Cedric looks more like a champion again shows how hyperaware he is of how others perceive him in comparison to the other three champions, something that's related to where Harry is in puberty right now. He's still self-involved and thinks mostly about himself. Though Ron is certainly partially to blame at this point, this is likely one of the reasons that Harry and Ron aren't able to make up yet, as Harry cannot yet truly empathize with how Ron feels.



Snape's assessment of Hermione's appearance shows that, when given the option to be kind or cruel, Snape will nearly always choose to be cruel. His decision to send Goyle to the hospital wing, however, shows that Snape is capable of being kind to students; he just chooses not to and therefore becomes a "bad guy" in Harry, Ron, and Hermione's eyes.



The Quick-Quotes Quill functions as a device that bridges the gap between what people say and what's published in the paper, and it does so right before Harry's eyes. By giving Harry insight into the specific mechanism that does this, the novel prepares Harry to understand why Rita Skeeter's articles contain the kinds of reporting they do--which in turn, allows Harry to understand that they don't tell a version of the truth that's trustworthy.



Again, though Harry has the opportunity here to try to make up with Ron and show some empathy for Ron's situation, he chooses not to. This again reminds the reader that becoming empathetic and a good person is something that someone chooses to do; it's not a natural or given state of being. When Harry is happy to keep his wand's history secret, it shows that he now understands how dangerous information can be if it gets into the wrong hands (like Rita Skeeter's).



CHAPTER NINETEEN

Harry looks forward to seeing Sirius, especially given how horrible life is once Rita Skeeter's article runs. It's entirely about Harry and quotes him as saying things he never said. Though Skeeter mentions Krum and Fleur, she misspells their names and doesn't mention Cedric. She also "reveals" that Hermione is Harry's girlfriend. The Slytherins tease Harry mercilessly while Ron persists in his silence. Though Harry won't admit it, he misses Ron a lot, as being best friends with Hermione means spending most of his time in the library. Krum spends a lot of time in the library too, which annoys Hermione to no end because he's often surrounded by noisy, giggling girls.

Time seems to start going faster as the first task approaches. On Saturday, Hermione convinces Harry to accompany her to Hogsmeade, though he insists on wearing his Invisibility Cloak. They see Rita Skeeter coming out of the Three Broomsticks and Harry feels a wave of panic when he realizes she's probably covering the first task. Hermione leads Harry into the pub, slips him a butterbeer under his cloak, and then pulls out her S.P.E.W. things. Looking around, Harry thinks that this would be a fantastic weekend if only he weren't a champion.

Hermione points out Hagrid, who's leaning over and talking to Moody. As the two get up to leave, they make their way to Harry and Hermione's table and Moody mutters that he can see through Invisibility Cloaks with his magical eye. Hagrid, meanwhile, quietly asks Harry to meet him at midnight and wear the Cloak. With this, the adults leave the pub. Harry and Hermione discuss whether this will make Harry late for Sirius, but Harry assumes this is urgent.

Harry sneaks out of the common room under his Invisibility Cloak at 11:30. Hagrid seems excited as he greets Harry and leads him to the Beauxbatons carriage. Madame Maxime steps out, takes Hagrid's arm, and speaks as though this is a surprise for her too. Harry follows Hagrid and Maxime until they reach a clearing filled with four massive and angry dragons. 30 wizards, including Charlie, try to control the creatures and finally, they Stun them. Charlie greets Hagrid, names off the different dragon breeds, and says the dragons are nesting mothers. He asks about Harry and says that Mrs. Weasley is worried sick. At this, Harry heads back to the castle.

The contents of Rita Skeeter's article shows how easy it is for her to twist the facts and play up one aspect of the Tournament, rather than give a balanced account of what's going on. By demonstrating how easy it is to do this and, specifically, the kind of teasing that Harry experiences because of this, the novel makes it very clear that even though Skeeter's article is untrue, it should still be taken seriously as it has real power to dictate thought.



When Harry is afraid of seeing Rita Skeeter specifically, it shows that it's dawning on him that no matter what he does, he can't win when it comes to the press: even if he performs spectacularly, Skeeter will still warp the truth to accomplish her own agenda. This will be a very important thing for Harry to keep in mind going forward.



Because Harry trusts Hagrid, he knows that Hagrid wouldn't ask him to run around out of bounds and past curfew for no reason--in other words, he understands that this particular authority figure has Harry's best interests at heart and therefore, his requests should be taken seriously.



The fact that both Hagrid feels compelled to show both Harry and Maxime, knowing that Maxime is sure to tell Fleur about the dragons, suggests that Hagrid feels it's his duty to make sure that the champions and the people he cares about are prepared for this task. Though this is technically cheating, this suggests that it's possible to still be a good and caring person and break rules, thereby setting Hagrid apart from people like Percy and Mr. Crouch.



Harry hits something and falls. He realizes he ran into Karkaroff, who appears to be sneaking out to see the dragons. Harry races through the castle and arrives in Gryffindor Tower five minutes before one. When he looks at the fire, he sees Sirius's face in it. While Sirius is interested in the dragons, he's more interested in warning Harry about Karkaroff, who was a Death Eater and went to Azkaban around the same time that Sirius did. He made a deal with the Ministry and now teaches the Dark Arts to his students. Sirius says that, by reading between the lines of Rita Skeeter's articles, he suspects that Karkaroff might have tried to keep Moody from getting to Hogwarts.

Harry asks why Karkaroff would want to kill him. Sirius mentions all the recent Death Eater activity and Bertha Jorkins, who disappeared near where Voldemort was rumored to be. Sirius says that he knew Bertha and she'd be easy to lure into a trap. He suggests that whoever put Harry's name in the goblet likely wants to attack Harry and make it look like an accident. He begins to tell Harry a spell to use on the dragon, but Harry hears footsteps. Sirius disappears moments before Ron comes down the staircase. The two argue and Harry throws a badge at Ron's head.

CHAPTER TWENTY

The next morning, Harry tells Hermione about everything Sirius said. She believes that the dragons are the most pressing issue. They spend the day looking for a simple spell that would allow Harry to best a dragon with no success. On Monday, Harry considers running away, but realizes that he'd rather face a dragon than go back to the Dursleys. As he finishes his breakfast, he sees Cedric and realizes that he's the only champion who doesn't know about the dragons. He chases after Cedric and then tells him that the first task is dragons. Cedric asks why Harry told him and Harry says that it's just fair.

Moody comes around the corner, tells Cedric to move along, and calls Harry to follow him to his office. Harry wonders if he's in trouble and is shocked when Moody tells him his behavior was honorable. Harry looks around at the items in Moody's office. He believes they're all items that help catch Dark wizards. He recognizes a large Sneakoscope and sees a mirror that shows only shadowy figures. Moody explains he's disabled several devices due to the students' constant lying. Moody assures Harry that cheating is part of the Tournament and asks Harry if he has a plan to get past the dragons. Gruffly, Moody tells Harry to play to his strengths and when Harry says that he's only good at Quidditch, Moody tells him to find a spell that will let him "get what he needs." Later, Harry asks Hermione to help him master the Summoning Charm.

The fact that Sirius makes it clear that he doesn't take Rita Skeeter's articles entirely seriously but does know that there's likely some truth to what she writes suggests that he understands how to use all media available to him to come to conclusions about what's going on in the world. His suspicions of Karkaroff suggest he believes that Death Eaters can never reform, which suggests that he sees evil as a set state from which a person can't recover.



When Harry snaps and throws the badge at Ron, it reminds the reader that though Harry is privileged in terms of wealth and fame, he's deserving of empathy too and still struggles with the pressure of this Tournament like everyone else. Being able to speak with Sirius allows Harry to feel cared for, which makes Ron's intrusion even more frustrating.



Harry's choice to tell Cedric becomes an example of the novel's assertion that being a good person is something that happens when someone makes these small choices to help others. Harry could have gone on and, because he's prepared, done better than Cedric, but his reasoning shows that he believes in playing fair and making sure that everyone is on equal footing. This suggests that on some level, Harry already understands the importance of sharing his privileges.



Given that Hagrid already cheated to show Harry the dragons in the first place, Moody's choice to guide Harry in deciding to use his broom doesn't seem at all out of the ordinary--and Moody himself justifies it by saying that everyone cheats. In doing so, Moody also points to the fact that there's something of a dark side to every person, whether they're good or evil, no matter how low or high the stakes might be.



Harry and Hermione practice during lunch with little success. He grudgingly goes to Divination, where Trelawney predicts his death, and then spends all night practicing. By two in the morning, Harry is surrounded by objects he Summoned and feels confident that he'll be able to summon his Firebolt.

At lunch the next day, McGonagall fetches Harry to take him down to the stadium. She seems concerned and asks Harry if he's okay before she sends him into a tent with the other champions. Inside, Fleur looks nervous, Krum looks surly, and Cedric paces. Bagman calls the champions to attention when he sees Harry and explains that once the audience is seated, each champion will draw a small model of a dragon out of a bag, and their task is to get the golden egg. Soon, he offers the champions the bag in turn. Fleur draws a green dragon; Krum draws a Chinese Fireball; Cedric draws a blue-gray one; and Harry draws a Hungarian Horntail. Bagman then asks Harry to follow him outside and offers to help. Harry refuses and Bagman races away when he hears a whistle.

Sitting inside the tent and listening to Cedric fighting the dragon is awful. Cedric is successful after fifteen minutes. Fleur goes next and gets her egg in ten minutes. Then Krum collects his egg and finally, it's Harry's turn. He focuses his mind on his Firebolt and Summons it. It arrives and Harry kicks off. In the air, Harry feels at home. He leads the Horntail in diversionary tactics but suffers one cut on his shoulder from the dragon's tail spikes. Harry encourages the dragon to take off and abandon her eggs and as soon as she does, he dives and grabs the egg. Bagman shouts that Harry was the fastest champion.

Harry flies down to McGonagall, Moody, and Hagrid. McGonagall praises him and points him towards Madam Pomfrey. Madam Pomfrey puts something on Harry's shoulder and instructs him to sit, but Harry gets up. Hermione and Ron meet him at the door. Very seriously, Ron says that whoever put Harry's name in the goblet is trying to kill him. Harry realizes he doesn't need to hear Ron's apology and they grin at each other. Hermione bursts into tears and runs away crying. Ron leads Harry out and tells him a bit about how the other champions did. They walk out and each judge gives Harry a score out of ten. Maxime, Mr. Crouch, Dumbledore, and Bagman give Harry high scores, but Karkaroff gives Harry a four. Ron shouts indignantly and Harry thinks that Ron's support is worth more than the score.

The discovery on Harry's part that he is capable of learning these difficult charms shows him that, if he works hard enough and chooses to practice, he can be just as successful as Hermione.



When Harry refuses Bagman's offer of help, it's because Bagman offering to help is in an entirely different league than Moody or Hagrid doing the same--Bagman is one of the organizers and this offer suggests corruption and foul play. This begins to suggest that, while Harry and Mr. Weasley like Bagman on a personal level, he might not actually be a trustworthy person and likely has ulterior motives for offering help.



Harry's success in the first task functions as a way for him to realize that, when it comes down to it, he's just as capable of doing well as the other champions despite the age and maturity differences between them. This in turn helps Harry to feel more mature, especially since in terms of time, he was the most successful at completing this task.



It's telling that Ron is able to put aside his anger and jealousy of Harry after seeing the first task--it suggests that Moody is right and the students will only be able to prepare themselves and see reason once they know what's out there in the world. Before, when the Tournament was something abstract in Ron's mind, he felt that it was something simple and glorious. Now, however, he sees that it's a truly dangerous dip into the real Wizarding world and though the winner will certainly earn a great deal of prestige, it will be hard won.



Bagman calls the champions back into the tent and tells them that the second task will take place on the 24th of February, and to figure out what it is, the champions need to solve the clue hidden inside the egg. As Harry and Ron head back to the castle, Rita Skeeter jumps out and asks for an interview. Harry refuses.

When Harry is able to boldly refuse Skeeter's request for an interview after reaffirming his friendship with Ron, it shows that friendship and camaraderie are some of the best ways to stand up to the kind of mayhem that Skeeter causes.



CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

On their way to the Owlery to send Sirius an update on Harry's performance, Harry and Hermione fill Ron in on Sirius's information about Karkaroff. Then, they return to the common room for Harry's party. When people ask Harry to open the golden egg, he does. It's empty but a nasty wailing fills the room until Harry closes it. Neville thinks that Harry will be tortured. As Hermione accepts food from Fred, she innocently asks how to get into the kitchen. He tells her but before he can warn her to not annoy the elves, Neville turns into a canary. Fred uses the opportunity to advertise his Canary Creams.

Neville's suggestion that the egg warns of torture raises a number of questions in regards to why he'd think that way. The fact that Harry doesn't ask any of those questions suggests that at this point, he's still too caught up in his own world to be truly curious about others' lives. Fred's Canary Cream shows that he and George are still pursuing their joke shop ideas and, given the success of this candy, deserve more credit than Mrs. Weasley wants to give them.



In the beginning of December, Hagrid asks his class to see if the skrewts will hibernate by settling the six-foot creatures in boxes. The skrewts, however, break out and most of the students hide in Hagrid's hut. Harry, Ron, and Hermione help tie up the skrewts and as they do, Rita Skeeter appears. Hagrid frowns at her and asks if Dumbledore banned her from school grounds, but Skeeter ignores this and expresses interest in the skrewts. She flatters Hagrid and asks if he'd give an interview for an article about the skrewts. Harry is unable to secretly let Hagrid know that this is a bad idea and later, Ron says that the best and worst thing that could happen is that Hagrid will have to get rid of the skrewts.

The way that Rita Skeeter manipulates Hagrid and flatters him to avoid having to tell the truth (the novel implies that she has indeed been banned from Hogwarts) suggests that she knows how to use empathy and kindness as tools to advance her own agenda. This shows that even these qualities that are often associated with heroes can also be used by villains, and suggests that Harry should carefully consider who's offering him help and what their motives might be in doing so.



Harry enjoys Divination now that he and Ron are friends again. Trelawney predicts his death yet again and after class, Harry notes that it'd be impressive if she didn't do it daily. Hermione isn't at dinner but meets the boys at the Fat Lady's portrait and begs them to follow her. She leads Harry and Ron down to the kitchen, tickles a pear in a painting and ignores Ron's scathing comments about S.P.E.W., and leads them into the kitchen. Dobby throws himself at Harry, crying with happiness, and explains that Dumbledore hired him and Winky to work at Hogwarts. He's wearing an assortment of neat clothing items.

The observation that Harry might take Trelawney seriously were she not so intent on constantly predicting his death again brings up the idea of believability: like Moody with his assassination plots, because Trelawney sees death omens everywhere, nobody believes her when she does see a real one. The note that Dobby's clothes are all neat indicates that he cares for them and takes pride in them, as they symbolize his freedom.



Looking around the kitchen, Harry sees four tables that he assumes are right below the House tables in the Great Hall. A hundred elves smile and bow, all dressed in tea towels. Winky is sitting by the fire wearing clothes that she's clearly not caring for. As Harry and Hermione greet Winky, Winky bursts into tears. Elves bring tea for Harry, Ron, and Hermione as Dobby tells them about his quest to find paid work. The other elves act as though Dobby is speaking about something rude and Winky cries even harder. Dobby happily says he now earns a Galleon a week and a day off per month. Hermione is aghast at how little this is, but Dobby says he doesn't want more.

Hermione kindly asks Winky what she's being paid, which makes Winky look Hermione in the eye and furiously say that she hasn't sunk so low as to accept payment and is ashamed to be free. Hermione points out that Mr. Crouch was horrible to her, but Winky shrieks that Mr. Crouch is good and was right to fire her. Dobby explains that house-elves can't speak ill of their masters and that Winky is having a hard time adjusting. Dobby says that he struggles to say bad things about the Malfoys even now. He says that the Malfoys are "bad Dark wizards" and then bangs his head on the table to punish himself.

Hermione notes that she's seen Mr. Crouch and he seems to be doing just fine. When she mentions that he's judging the Tournament with Bagman, Winky dissolves: she says that Bagman is bad, but she insists on keeping Mr. Crouch's secrets. Dobby talks over her about his plans to buy a sweater, and Ron offers him the one that Mrs. Weasley will send for Christmas. As the trio prepares to leave, Harry tells Dobby he can visit him. On the walk back to Gryffindor Tower, they discuss whether Winky will get over being fired and what she means by speaking ill of Bagman.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

After Transfiguration a few days later, McGonagall interrupts Harry and Ron's swordfight with two of Fred and George's joke wands to announce that the Yule Ball will take place on Christmas Day. It's open to fourth years and above and she insists on excellent behavior. She asks Harry to stay after the bell and tells him that the champions and their dance partners will open the ball. They argue about this, but McGonagall insists that Harry ask someone to the ball. Harry begins to notice how many girls there are at school and thinks he'd like to ask Cho. Ron notes that all the girls probably want to go with Harry. It still surprises Harry when several girls ask him. He tells them all no.

In contrast to Dobby, Winky's poorly kept clothes tell the reader that she's not enjoying her freedom and isn't proud of being free. Notice too that Dobby insists that he doesn't want to be paid any more than he already is, but Hermione is still aghast. This again shows that Hermione isn't even willing to listen to an elf who embodies her cause when he says that her aims are too high to actually be useful or desirable to elves.



Again, the disconnect between the way that Hermione speaks to the elves and what the elves tell her suggests that Hermione isn't being a good advocate or ally to the house-elves--if she were, she'd ask Winky what she could do to help make her transition to freedom easier or help her find employment with terms that suited her. Specifically, Hermione's observation about Mr. Crouch shows that she's judging him on a completely different metric than the elves are.



Given the way the elves' magic appears to work, it seems likely that the trio can trust what the elves say: both that the Malfoys are Dark wizards and that somehow, Bagman isn't a good person. In this situation, Winky and Dobby are able to offer an outside perspective much like those of the magical devices and in doing so, add to the trio's understanding of their world.



When Harry is surprised that girls ask him to the Yule Ball, it suggests that he's still not entirely aware of how powerful and famous he is; both qualities make him an attractive date. This shows that, when it comes to how Harry uses his prestige, he has the power to make people happy whom he's never even considered before (in this case, a girl who wants to go with him but whom he doesn't know).



Despite this challenge, life for Harry is looking up. The Hufflepuffs no longer give Harry grief and Rita Skeeter hasn't published a nasty article about Hagrid yet. Hagrid tells Harry one day that Skeeter was mostly interested in talking about Harry's shortcomings.

The last week of term is boisterous and wild. Several teachers let the students play games, but Snape announces a test on antidotes on the final day of term. As Ron builds a card castle and Harry reads for fun a few days before the test, Hermione scolds them for not studying and Harry for not trying to figure out the egg. Ron's card castle blows up just as Fred and George arrive to ask to borrow Pigwidgeon. When Ron asks who they keep writing to, they threaten to burn Ron's nose and ask the trio whom they're taking to the dance. Fred asks Angelina to prove how easy it is and he and George leave for the Owlery. Ron tells Harry that they should ask girls soon so they don't end up going with "trolls," which angers Hermione.

A few days later, Harry still hasn't asked Cho. Finally, on Friday morning, Ron and Harry decide that they'll both have partners by the end of the day. Harry watches Cho all day and before dinner, asks to speak to her alone. When Harry asks, Cho nervously says she's already said she'd go with Cedric. Harry walks glumly to the common room, thinking that he was starting to like Cedric but he realizes now that Cedric is useless and dumb.

In the common room, Harry sees Ron sitting in a corner with a strange look on his face. Ginny is speaking softly to him. Ginny explains to Harry that Ron asked Fleur to the ball and that she turned him down. Harry shares that he just asked Cho and she said no. Ron says that Neville apparently asked Hermione, who turned him down and said she's going with someone else. Ginny starts to look uncomfortable as Ron laughs that Hermione just didn't want to go with Neville.

Hermione climbs through the portrait hole, confused as to why the boys didn't come to dinner. Ginny tells her that girls turned Harry and Ron down for the ball. Ron tells Hermione that she's a girl and could go with him or Harry, but Hermione angrily says she's going with someone already. After she leaves for the girls' dormitory, Ron tells Ginny that *she* can go with Harry. Blushing, Ginny says that she's going with Neville and miserably leaves to eat dinner.

Seeing Parvati and Lavender come into the common room, Harry goes to them and asks Parvati to go with him. Lavender already has a date, but Parvati agrees to go with Harry and offers to see if her sister, Padma, will go with Ron.

Skeeter's interest in Harry's shortcomings suggests that now that Harry has turned down her interview requests, she's going to turn the media against him and attempt to discredit him.



When Ron refers to possible dates as being "trolls," it suggests that he doesn't yet think of women and girls as fully fledged people deserving of kindness--at this point, he's interested in them only for their looks. This offers Ron a starting point as he continues to mature and, hopefully, learn that women are people too. By inviting Angelina like this, Fred is able to demonstrate his maturity to the younger trio and show them how far they have to go.



Notice that Cho is kind when she turns Harry down; this shows that she at least understands that she has the power to make Harry's day or ruin it. When Harry then immediately decides that Cedric is dumb, it shows that he's flattening Cedric into only his romantic rival--something that reinforces Harry's emotional immaturity.



Ron's choice to laugh at the thought of Neville going to the ball with a girl shows that he doesn't yet have the capacity to truly humanize his classmates and see them as fully formed humans. On the other hand, Ginny's obvious discomfort with this conversation indicates that she's already made this leap to humanize Neville.



This entire argument reinforces that Ron doesn't see his classmates, friends, or siblings as anything more than pawns for him to use for his own gains. This argument then shows Ron that he must understand that these people are actually individuals with their own desires that might not align with Ron's.



By asking Parvati and Lavender, Harry shows that he's learning to call on his wider community to achieve his goals.



CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Harry spends the week before Christmas enjoying himself. Fred and George sell a bunch of Canary Creams, which makes everyone suspicious of accepting food from others. Ron questions Hermione every chance he gets about whom she's going to the ball with, but she refuses to say. One evening in the entrance hall, Malfoy interrupts Ron to express surprise that anyone asked Hermione to the ball. Hermione waves and greets Moody as though Moody is behind Malfoy. Malfoy jumps and the trio laughs; Moody is nowhere to be seen.

Ron notes that Hermione's teeth look different, and Hermione mischievously says that when she went to Madam Pomfrey to fix Malfoy's curse, she let her shrink her teeth to less than their original size. As they reach the top of the staircase, Hermione points to Pigwidgeon twittering at students. Ron hands the letter to Harry and Harry reads it when they get back to the common room. Sirius reminds Harry that he can't get complacent and needs to stay out of trouble.

On Christmas Day, Harry wakes to Dobby's face close to his and yells. Dobby apologizes and offers Harry a present as Ron, Seamus, Dean, and Neville decide to open their own presents. Harry gives Dobby a pair of Uncle Vernon's old socks, which delights the elf. Ron throws Dobby another pair of socks and Mrs. Weasley's sweater. Dobby's gift to Harry is two hand-knitted socks, one with broomsticks and one with Snitches knitted into them. Harry spends the day eating, playing, and having a snowball fight.

At seven, the boys head upstairs to get ready. Ron cuts the lace off of his dress robes before he and Harry meet Parvati in the common room. She's lovely in pink robes and leads the boys downstairs without Hermione. They meet Padma, who seems unimpressed with Ron. Ron remains fixated on finding Hermione as they watch other students arrive in the front hall. Harry sees Karkaroff lead his students in and sees Krum with a pretty girl he doesn't recognize. However, when McGonagall calls the champions and their partners to the side, Harry realizes Krum's date is Hermione. Several people seem amazed that Hermione looks so pretty, but Ron ignores her as he walks into the Great Hall.

Pay attention to the fact that all of Malfoy's bullying seeks to make his targets feel less than and as though they're not worthy of love or attention. By doing this, Malfoy is choosing the kind of person he wants to be, just the same as Harry and his friends are. This allows the reader a way to sympathize with Malfoy, as it shows he's a maturing teen just like everyone else in the novel.



When Ron notices Hermione's teeth, it shows that he's beginning to learn from the debacle a few days ago and now recognizes that Hermione is an increasingly attractive young woman, at least in his opinion. Commenting on it allows Hermione to feel good about her appearance.



The delight that Dobby takes in receiving these old socks shows Harry that acts of kindness don't need to be grand or elaborate to be effective; sometimes, making someone happy is as easy as giving them a pair of socks. By choosing to make Dobby happy in this way, Harry is then able to keep his friendship with the elf alive.



When everyone is so shocked to see that Hermione is capable of making herself look conventionally beautiful, it shows that all of them--Harry and Ron included--have learned to think of Hermione as being only important or notable for her smarts. Her appearance makes it clear that Hermione is capable of being more than just the resident smart kid, while the fact that she's attending the ball with Krum shows that she's taking Dumbledore's request to be friendly with their guests to heart.



Harry and Parvati follow the other champions to the head table where the judges are seated. Percy is sitting where Harry assumes Mr. Crouch was supposed to sit. Harry sits next to Percy who immediately shares that he's been promoted and that Mr. Crouch isn't well. Harry notices that Hermione is deep in conversation with Krum about Durmstrang and listens to Dumbledore and Karkaroff argue about keeping their schools' secrets. He notices Hagrid a few tables away and smiles at Hermione, who's trying to teach Krum to say her name properly.

When everyone is finished eating, Dumbledore waves his wand to clear dance floor. The band The Weird Sisters takes the stage and Parvati steers Harry onto the floor. Dancing is less embarrassing once others start dancing too but as soon as the song ends, Harry leads Parvati to where Ron and Padma are sitting. Ron glares silently at Hermione and Krum. Parvati accepts an invitation to dance with a Beauxbatons boy and Hermione soon takes her seat, happily sharing that Viktor is getting drinks.

Ron accuses Hermione of "fraternizing with the enemy," which baffles Hermione. Ron suggests that Krum only asked Hermione so that he could get information about Harry, jinx him, or get help with his egg. Hermione angrily reminds Ron that the Tournament is about making friends, and Harry says that he doesn't have an issue with Hermione going to the ball with Krum. Ron ignores this and Hermione walks away. Padma excuses herself to join Parvati just as Krum approaches with butterbeers, looking for Hermione. Ron sends him away as Percy arrives, thrilled that Ron is making friends with Krum—he says the point of the Tournament is to make friends.

Percy sits down next to Ron and he and Harry watch Fred and George accost Bagman. Bagman escapes them, comes over to say hi to Harry, and explains that the twins want help with marketing their joke products. Percy and Bagman begin to talk about Mr. Crouch and the Tournament as a whole and after a minute, Ron pokes Harry. They step outside where, curiously, they hear Snape and Karkaroff using each other's first names and talking about something that's getting clearer. A little further up the path, Harry hears Hagrid.

When Karkaroff gets upset about Krum spilling school secrets, it shows that unlike Dumbledore, Karkaroff doesn't necessarily see the value in forming friendships with foreign friends. Harry's apparent acceptance of Hermione and Krum attending together shows that, like Hermione, he also sees the value of having friends from other places.



Both Harry and Ron are being rude to their dates, which shows that neither of them thinks of Parvati and Padma as being especially worthy of their time and attention. This again shows how far Harry and Ron have to go as they mature emotionally and develop a sense of empathy for others.



Ron's accusations against Krum show that as far as Ron is concerned, the purpose of the Tournament is winning at all costs and creating real divides between Hogwarts students and students from other schools. This illustrates how even good characters like Ron can make choices that make them seem less good, while also pointing out that Voldemort isn't the only one suspicious of or hateful towards outsiders—anyone is capable of thinking like that.



Bagman's comment about Fred and George asking for help with their joke wares reminds the reader that for Fred and George, adulthood is very close and soon, they're going to need to make it in the real world. Though this isn't actually why they're seeking out Bagman, Bagman knows that this is a logical and acceptable cover given the twins' age.



Noticing that Fleur and her date are kissing in a nearby rosebush, Ron refuses to let Harry lead him past them and instead pulls Harry into a bush behind Hagrid. Hagrid is talking to Madame Maxime, saying that he knows that she's "like him." He talks about his dad and his mum, who he says wasn't maternal. Harry notices a beetle and tries to concentrate on it as Hagrid asks Maxime which side she has "it" on, and says that he knows she's a half-giant too. Maxime shrieks, offended, and storms away. Ron looks serious, which tells Harry that there's more to being a half-giant than he knows.

Back inside, Ron explains that giants are vicious, though Hagrid isn't, and it makes sense that he'd want to keep it secret. They discuss giants for the rest of the ball and are thrilled when it's over. On their way up the stairs, Cedric calls for Harry and quietly tells him to take a bath with his egg. He gives Harry the password for the prefects' bathroom and runs off to say goodnight to Cho. When Harry gets to the common room, Ron and Hermione are having a screaming match. Hermione yells that next time, he shouldn't ask her as a last resort and runs to bed. Harry stays silent, but he thinks Hermione is right.

Given the way that the novel has already offered insight into the ways that non-human creatures are treated by wizards, it's likely that giants are also unwelcome and treated with caution. Harry's desire to leave Hagrid alone for this private conversation shows that Harry is developing a sense of empathy and respect for his friends and understands the importance of giving his loved ones privacy for their secrets.



When Cedric chooses to give Harry a hint in return, it shows that, like Harry, he believes in fairness and wants all the champions to be able to compete on equal footing. The fact that the reader only sees this happening among the Hogwarts students suggests that it's possible that it's only the Hogwarts students that feel this way, again showing that Dumbledore's school is, by design, kinder and more accepting.



CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

The next morning, Ron and Hermione are friendly but strangely formal with each other. Ron and Harry share what they heard about Hagrid's parentage, but Hermione isn't shocked. She suggests that the giants can't be too horrible and wonders if it's the same kind of bigotry that people show to werewolves.

With Christmas over, Harry thinks that the second task looks very close. He starts taking the egg out daily to listen, but nothing happens. Though he keeps Cedric's clue in mind, Harry desperately wants to figure it out for himself--especially when he sees Cedric holding Cho's hand in the hallways.

When Harry, Ron, and Hermione get to Hagrid's for Care of Magical Creatures, they find a short witch who curtly introduces herself as Professor Grubbly-Plank, the temporary teacher. She refuses to tell them where Hagrid is and leads the class to a unicorn tied at the edge of the forest. She invites the girls to step forward and touch it and while the boys stand back, Malfoy smirks and hands Harry a newspaper clipping. It's an article written by Rita Skeeter outing Hagrid as being half-giant and including interviews with Malfoy saying that Hagrid "maims" students during lessons with dangerous animals.

When Hermione is able to apply this big-picture thinking to giants, it shows that she has the capacity to think of non-human creatures with compassion, though it's unclear if she'd be willing to listen to giants better than she listens to house-elves.



The jealousy that Harry feels and the choices that Harry makes because of his jealousy remind the reader that he's still young and figuring out how to exist in an adult world with emotions that he doesn't enjoy.



For all the Slytherins' faults, it's telling that they're the ones who seem to have subscriptions to the paper--this means that they're the first to get information and, because Harry, Ron, and Hermione don't have their own subscriptions, it means that they get to censor the things that the trio read. Doing this allows the Slytherins to make it so Harry only reads the articles that aren't nice to him.



Ron is dumbfounded that Rita Skeeter found out about Hagrid's parentage, while Harry hisses at Malfoy that most of the creatures haven't been that dangerous. After the lesson, Harry shoves the article at Hermione, who's also curious how Skeeter uncovered this information. She wonders if she heard Hagrid during the ball too, and Harry muses that she might have an Invisibility Cloak. After dinner, the trio goes down to Hagrid's cabin and bangs on the door, but Hagrid doesn't answer. Hagrid doesn't show himself for the next week.

Halfway through January, Harry lies to Hermione that he's figured out the egg so she doesn't scold him when he decides to go on the Hogsmeade trip. On their way to the village with Ron, they see Krum diving off the Durmstrang ship into the lake. When Ron looks hopeful that the giant squid might eat Krum, Hermione frowns and says he's actually really nice. Hogsmeade is uneventful and there are no signs of Hagrid. The trio does see Bagman sitting with three goblins who all look upset. They think it's strange that Bagman is in Hogsmeade when there's no reason to be there.

When he spots Harry, Bagman pulls him aside and, seeing Harry looking at the goblins, says that the creatures are a nightmare and he can't understand them. They want Mr. Crouch, who's stopped coming to work and says he's ill. Bagman asks Harry to keep this a secret, as Rita Skeeter is likely to insist that Mr. Crouch is missing like Bertha Jorkins. Bagman changes the subject and asks Harry how he's doing with the egg and again offers to help. When Harry refuses, Bagman looks disappointed and turns down Fred and George's offer to buy him a drink. The goblins follow Bagman out of the pub.

Harry and Ron are shocked that Bagman wants to help and Ron wonders jokingly if Percy poisoned Mr. Crouch so he'd be made head of the department. Rita Skeeter enters the Three Broomsticks with her photographer and the two mutter about why Bagman doesn't want to talk and what he's doing with goblins. Harry loudly asks her if she's trying to ruin other people's lives and asks why she wrote about Hagrid like she did. Skeeter invites Harry to tell his account of what Hagrid is like, which makes Hermione angrily stand and insult Skeeter. Skeeter coldly tells Hermione that she knows all sorts of unsavory things about Bagman and calls Hermione a "silly little girl."

Hagrid's choice to barricade himself in his cabin shows the consequences of being mean and unfeeling like Skeeter was in writing the article--Hagrid fears that nobody will want to be friends with him, knowing the truth. This fear also speaks to the anxiety that wizards have about non-human beings, given that everyone who knows Hagrid knows he's harmless and extremely kind.



Showing Bagman with these unhappy goblins opens up the possibility that there are a number of magical creatures that, unlike house-elves, are actually unhappy with the way that wizards treat them. The fact that the goblins are with Bagman also suggests that, if he's the reason for their unhappiness, that he's not a good or nice person, as Winky suggested.



The way that Bagman speaks about the goblins confirms that wizards in general don't think highly of non-human creatures; as far as he's concerned, they're fundamentally unintelligible and impossible to relate to. This explains why these creatures are dealt with through a specific branch of the Ministry, as they're merely a problem to be dealt with rather than beings with understandable aims.



The fact that seeing Bagman with unhappy goblins also intrigues Skeeter implies that there is something to be concerned about here. By standing up for Hagrid in public, Harry and Hermione are able to show the patrons of the Three Broomsticks (where Hagrid is a regular visitor) that someone is willing to stand up for him. Hopefully, this will encourage others to also stand up for Hagrid and fight for the truth: that Hagrid is good and kind.



Harry, Ron, and Hermione leave the pub and Hermione vows to get revenge. Ron cautions her to not get on Rita Skeeter's bad side, but Hermione angrily leads the boys to Hagrid's hut and bangs loudly on his door, shouting that Skeeter is awful and that Hagrid's being silly for ignoring them. She stops short when Dumbledore opens the door and pleasantly invites them in. Hagrid looks like he's been crying. Dumbledore conjures a tea tray and tells Hagrid that the trio still wants to be friends with him. After Harry insists that he doesn't care what Skeeter wrote, Dumbledore says that this is proof of what he's been saying all along: that parents will revolt if Hagrid loses his job. He reminds Hagrid that achieving universal popularity is impossible and says that he expects him back to work on Monday.

Because people can dislike each other without anyone being evil, Dumbledore's advice to Hagrid reminds him and the reader that people are multifaceted individuals who have bits of good inside them as well as bits of bad. Most importantly, it suggests that much of that good or bad is relative, not set in stone. This helps Harry to learn to humanize others and understand that, as he continues to move forward into a more adult world, things aren't going to get clearer in this sense.



Dumbledore leaves and Hermione comforts Hagrid as he cries. When he collects himself, he pulls out a photo of himself with his dad as a child. His dad sits on Hagrid's shoulder. Hagrid says that Dumbledore believes that people can rise above unfortunate beginnings. He looks at Harry and says that he'd love it if Harry won the Triwizard Tournament. Harry lies and says that he has the egg figured out. On the way back to the castle, he decides to take Cedric's advice.

Because Harry loves and respects Hagrid so much, the thought of not making Hagrid proud is enough to convince Harry to swallow his pride and listen to Cedric. This shows Harry using love to overcome some of his adolescent jealousy and self-importance, providing a roadmap for the future.



CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Harry decides to take the egg to the prefects' bathroom on Thursday night, using the Invisibility Cloak and the Marauder's Map. The bathroom is magnificent; the bathtub is as big as a small pool and a hundred taps line the edge. Harry discovers that each tap carries a different bubble bath mixture and plays for a while before slipping into the bath. He opens the egg and still finds it unintelligible, but he drops it when he hears Moaning Myrtle tell him to put it in the water.

Moaning Myrtle's sudden appearance (and her choice to help Harry during his bath) reminds Harry that just because someone is annoying or unpleasant doesn't mean they're not helpful and worth consulting. However, it's questionable whether or not Harry truly internalizes this, given that he doesn't begin to reach out to others during the rest of the novel.



Myrtle assures Harry that she didn't spy on him while he got in the tub and complains that he hasn't been to see her in a while. She covers her eyes while Harry fetches the egg and opens it underwater, where it begins to sing. Harry puts his head under and listens to the riddle: someone who can't sing aboveground has taken something, and Harry will have an hour to retrieve it. Myrtle gleefully watches Harry ponder the riddle and confirms that there are merpeople in the lake. Harry's heart sinks when he realizes that he's going to have to swim in the lake.

Aside from the obvious challenge of needing to breathe and swim underwater for an hour, the fact that the egg implies that Harry will meet merpeople underwater turns this partially into a test of how Harry and the champions will handle meeting individuals who are very different from themselves and are possibly positioned as enemies.



Myrtle is very offended when Harry asks how he's supposed to breathe, and he ponders the riddle more as she talks about haunting a former classmate. He gets out, says he'll try to visit Myrtle in her bathroom, and checks the Marauder's Map. Harry notices that a dot labeled "Bartemius Crouch" is in Snape's office and wonders why Mr. Crouch is at Hogwarts now. Curious, Harry decides to investigate. Halfway down a staircase, however, Harry steps through a trick step, sinks into the staircase, and drops the egg and the map. Stuck and hidden under the Invisibility Cloak, he can't reach either. Filch races towards the sound of the screeching egg and believes that Peeves stole it from a champion. Just as Filch starts up the staircase, Snape arrives and says that somebody has been in his office.

Harry hopes that Filch will go investigate Snape's office, but Moody arrives. Harry realizes with a jolt that Moody can see him and Moody looks just as surprised to see Harry. Moody turns his attention to Snape and asks about his office, but Snape insists he doesn't need Moody's help. Moody insinuates that Snape isn't trustworthy and Snape convulsively grabs his left forearm. Moody sends Snape back to bed and points at the map, a "dropped" piece of parchment. Harry waves his arms wildly and Moody summons the map. Snape, however, saw it and insists that Harry is around in his Invisibility Cloak. Moody makes Snape stop, takes the egg from Filch, and sends both men away.

Moody asks Harry what the Marauder's Map is and Harry explains as Moody pulls him out of the staircase. When Moody asks, Harry says that he saw Mr. Crouch in Snape's office. This seems to mean something to Moody, so Harry asks why Mr. Crouch would want to look in Snape's office. Moody says that Mr. Crouch is obsessed with catching Dark Wizards, and the two discuss the strange events going on and the rumors spreading thanks to Rita Skeeter. He asks Harry to borrow the map and in his relief that he's not in trouble, Harry agrees. They climb the stairs and at Moody's office, he tells Harry to consider a career as an Auror.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

As Harry's class practices Banishing Charms in Charms the next day, Harry tells Ron and Hermione about Snape, Moody, and his trip to the bathroom. Ron thinks that Snape put Harry's name in the Goblet of Fire, but Hermione insists that they should trust Dumbledore. She's more interested in why Mr. Crouch is pretending to be sick. That night, Harry sends Sirius a letter detailing this information.

The news that Mr. Crouch is breaking into Snape's office forces Harry to think more about what he knows of Mr. Crouch. Most importantly, Harry doesn't realize at this point that Mr. Crouch has a son who shares his name; it's the younger Crouch that's in Snape's office. This offers the reader a way to see how Harry thinks about things when he doesn't have all the information, and shows that it's not necessarily Harry's fault for coming to incorrect conclusions--without more information, he can't reach the right ones.



For Moody--who is actually Barty Crouch--it's especially important to protect Harry in this situation, as Harry needs to be able to proceed and do well in the second task. By helping Harry then, Barty Crouch is able to develop a closer relationship with Harry based on breaking rules. This also illustrates how breaking rules and doing something objectively wrong like this can be a good thing in the end--Harry gets out of trouble, while Moody/Crouch earns Harry's trust.



Moody's advice that Harry should think about being an Auror is laughable, given that this advice is actually coming from a man who was imprisoned because of Aurors. Moody/Crouch chooses to give this advice, however, because he understands that Harry is at a point in his development where he's just beginning to think more about what the future holds, but still wants the authority figures in his life to guide him in the right direction.



Hermione's insistence that they need to trust Dumbledore's judgment shows that even though she's beginning to question the authority figures in her life, some of them--like Dumbledore--are still above her suspicion. This indicates that in this way, she's still a child.



Hermione and Ron dedicate their time to helping Harry figure out how to breathe underwater for an hour. Ron suggests that Harry Summon a diving setup from a Muggle town, but Hermione rejects this idea on the grounds that Muggles would see it. They search the library for a week with no luck and Harry receives a short letter from Sirius, asking when the next Hogsmeade weekend is. Harry writes back immediately that it's two weeks away. In Care of Magical Creatures, Hagrid shows the class baby unicorns and expresses his belief that Harry can complete the task and win the tournament.

By the evening before the second task, Harry still hasn't figured out what to do. He sits in the library with Ron and Hermione looking through book after book. Hermione seems to take it personally that the library isn't helping. Not long after dark, Fred and George appear and say that McGonagall wants Ron and Hermione in her office. Hermione promises to meet Harry in the common room when they're done with McGonagall. Harry returns to the common room with a stack of books and around midnight, fetches his Invisibility Cloak, creeps back to the library, and keeps searching.

Harry dreams that the mermaid painting in the prefects' bathroom is holding his Firebolt away from him and taunting him. He wakes to Dobby poking him and saying that the second task starts in ten minutes. Harry hopelessly says he can't do the task, but Dobby says that Harry has to get Ron from the merpeople. He gives Harry a slimy ball of what he calls gillyweed and tells him to eat it. Harry races down to the lake and notices the stands set up around it. He's surprised to see Percy at the judge's table and has no time to catch his breath before Bagman arranges the champions at the edge of the lake, checks that Harry has a plan, and blows his whistle.

Harry pulls off his shoes, shoves the gillyweed into his mouth, and wades into the lake. He stops when he's waist-deep and feels stupid until suddenly, he feels as though he can't breathe. Harry notices that he has gills and dives into the lake, which feels pleasant. His hands and feet are now webbed and it's easy to dive to the bottom. He swims through weeds, looking for any sign of Ron, and a grindylow grabs his ankle. Two more join the first and Harry shoots boiling water at them. He swims away as fast as he can and finally escapes. When he stops to catch his breath, Myrtle scares him and points him in the right direction. Harry starts to hear snatches of the song from the egg and finally comes upon merpeople dwellings and, eventually, a village square.

The fact that Hermione rejects Ron's reasonably good idea on the grounds that it would jeopardize Wizarding world security shows that though she's still an outsider in many ways to the Wizarding world, she has a better grasp of how things need to function to keep wizards safe than Ron does.



When Hermione is so upset that the library is letting her down, it shows that she still relies heavily on print media to guide how she moves through the world and makes decisions. However, this isn't unique to her: none of the trio consults anyone else asking for help, which shows that they don't yet truly accept that they have their entire community to draw on.



Percy's presence instead of Mr. Crouch's indicates that Mr. Crouch's health or wellbeing has likely taken a turn for the worse, and Percy is being given even more power because of it. While this doesn't implicate Percy, per se, it's important to keep in mind that this is something that likely makes Percy very happy and, because of his love of power and rules, he's moving into a position where he could begin to abuse it.



Again, when Myrtle frightens Harry and then helps him, it shows that Harry has a number of people to call on for help, not all of whom he expects to be able to do anything for him. This is indicative of Harry's youth, immaturity, and adolescent self-centeredness, all of which will begin to disappear as Harry grows and comes of age. Note how the narrator describes the merpeople's village; by showing that they live in dwellings and have village squares, just like humans, it shows that they're relatable.



Hermione, Ron, Cho Chang, and a girl who looks like Fleur's sister (Gabrielle) are tied to a statue in the middle, all apparently asleep. The merpeople do nothing as Harry swims to the hostages, tries to borrow a spear to cut the ropes binding Ron, and settles for a sharp rock. When Ron is free, Harry looks around and starts to cut Hermione's ropes too. Several mermen pull Harry away and tell him that he can't take Hermione. After a minute, Harry notices the merpeople pointing to Cedric. Cedric saves Cho and tells Harry that Fleur and Krum are coming. Minutes later, Krum appears, badly transfigured into a shark. Harry offers shark Krum his rock to cut Hermione free and then Krum swims to the surface.

Harry looks around, waiting for Fleur. He isn't sure how long the hostages have left, so he brandishes his wand at the merpeople and frees Gabrielle. Swimming to the surface is difficult with Gabrielle and Ron, especially since the merpeople circle and watch him. Soon, Harry realizes that breathing is becoming difficult and his flippers are disappearing. With a few feet to go until the surface, the gills and webbing disappear and Harry makes a final effort to make it to the surface. As he pulls Ron and Gabrielle up, the merpeople smile at Harry. Ron spits out water, notices Gabrielle, and tells Harry that he hopes Harry didn't waste time acting like a hero--Dumbledore wouldn't have let anyone die. Harry feels silly as he and Ron help Gabrielle to shore.

Percy, his face white, splashes into the lake to meet Harry and Ron. On the bank, Fleur hysterically screams for Gabrielle and grabs her as soon as she's close enough. Madam Pomfrey snags Harry, wraps him in a blanket, and seats him next to Hermione, Krum, Cedric, and Cho. Krum points out a water beetle in Hermione's hair, but Hermione brushes it away and keeps her attention on Harry. She says that he took forever and Harry feels even sillier for taking the riddle seriously. He watches Dumbledore speaking Mermish with the Merchieftaness. Fleur kisses both Ron and Harry in thanks.

After a brief conversation with the judges, Bagman announces that they'll award points out of 50. He awards Fleur 25 points, as she didn't reach Gabrielle. Cedric, who returned one minute late, gets 47 points. Krum's transfiguration earns him 40 points, while Harry's choice to save Gabrielle gets 45 points on account of his "moral fiber." Harry is now tied with Cedric for first place and everyone claps. Bagman announces that the third task will take place early in June. As Harry walks back to the castle, he decides to buy Dobby more socks to thank him.

For all Harry's self-centeredness, it's a mark of how much he cares about other people in general (given that he knows and likes Hermione and Cho but doesn't know Gabrielle) that he insists on staying and making sure they get out safely. This indicates that at least in times that seem dangerous like this, Harry is capable of being empathetic and caring for everyone as though they're his own loved ones.



When Ron reprimands Harry, he's really taking Harry to task for not thinking critically about the song and not taking the song's context into account. It is of course silly to think that Dumbledore would've let any of the hostages die, given that they're not supposed to be the ones in danger by participating in the Tournament in the first place. The fact that Harry feels silly for taking the song at face value offers hope that, going forward, Harry will take this lesson, internalize it, and learn to engage with context in the future.



The discovery that Dumbledore speaks Mermish suggests that Dumbledore is more openhearted and willing to accept non-human individuals into his orbit than even Harry has been willing to give him credit for. The fear on Percy's face indicates that, though Ron will at points question whether Percy prioritizes work or family, at this moment in time Percy cares for his family more than anything else.



The decision to buy Dobby more socks shows that Harry truly understands the power of these small things to make another being feel seen and appreciated, and he understands that because he has the power and the wherewithal to do these things for individuals like Dobby, it's imperative that he share his wealth and do so.



CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

Fortunately for Ron, his popularity soars after the second task. However, when Ron's story morphs from one that matches Hermione's to one in which he fights 50 armed merpeople, Hermione teases him and he stops. Early in March, Harry receives a short note from Sirius, asking him to bring food to the end of the road in Hogsmeade at two in the afternoon. Harry wants to see Sirius, but he's afraid that Sirius will be caught hanging around Hogsmeade.

On Friday afternoon, Harry, Ron, and Hermione line up for Potions and notice the Slytherins giggling at them. Pansy Parkinson throws her copy of the magazine *Witch Weekly* at Hermione and while Snape isn't paying attention, she finds an article titled "Harry Potter's Secret Heartache." In it, Rita Skeeter writes that Hermione is playing with Harry and Krum's emotions. She also mentions that Krum has invited Hermione to visit over the summer. Hermione sarcastically waves at the Slytherins. As she turns to her potion, she wonders how Skeeter discovered that Krum invited her to visit, given that Krum extended the invitation *after* the second task and Skeeter isn't allowed on school grounds.

Ron is more concerned with figuring out whether Hermione accepted the invitation than with wondering how Rita Skeeter obtained this information. Noticing this, Snape takes points from Gryffindor, confiscates *Witch Weekly*, and much to their horror, reads the article out loud. Snape separates the trio and moves Harry right in front of his desk. Harry tries to ignore Snape's attempts to goad him into saying something stupid by insisting that Harry is just a spoiled little boy. He also accuses Harry of stealing from his office, shows Harry a bottle of Veritaserum, a Truth Potion, and threatens to "accidentally" give Harry some.

Karkaroff lets himself into Snape's classroom and tells Snape that they need to talk. Snape insists they can speak after this lesson is over. Karkaroff hovers until the lesson is over, at which point Harry purposefully spills his armadillo bile so he can listen while he mops it up. Karkaroff shows Snape something on his left arm and Snape snarls for him to put "it" away. When Snape notices Harry, Harry feigns innocence and packs up his things quickly.

As funny as Ron's story is, it's telling that he weaves a story that casts the merpeople as bad guys. This suggests again that Ron buys into the general sense of anxiety that most wizards seem to when it comes to non-human creatures that live independently, like giants and goblins.



Hermione's ability to not take Skeeter's article seriously points to Hermione's maturity when it comes to romance, as this implies that were Hermione embarrassed about her involvement with either Krum or Harry, this article would be a bombshell. However, because Hermione knows where she stands and understands that Skeeter is just trying to stir up trouble, she's able to disregard the attempt.



*The fact that Snape's recitation of the *Witch Weekly* article is so horrifying reminds the reader that tone and source matter: because the trio hates Snape, it's worse to hear this coming from him. When Snape then goes on to accuse Harry and call him names, it again shows how authority figures like Snape have a great deal of responsibility when it comes to their students, as Snape can make Harry feel horrendous with little effort.*



Karkaroff and Snape's conversation shows Harry that whatever is on their arms (remember that Snape has clutched his left forearm too) is something that has to do with the wider Wizarding world, which Harry is still learning about. In other words, their arms show Harry he still has much to learn.



The next afternoon, Harry, Ron, and Hermione take food down to Hogsmeade. They choose socks for Dobby and then walk to the edge of town, where they find Sirius waiting for them in his dog form. They follow him up the nearby mountain and into a cave, where they greet Sirius in his human form. Sirius digs into the chicken legs and, noticing Harry's concern, explains that he wants to be nearby since things are getting more worrying. He motions to a stack of *Daily Prophets* and Harry notices headlines talking about Mr. Crouch's illness, which make it seem like he's dying, and Bertha Jorkins's continued disappearance.

Hermione suggests that Mr. Crouch is paying for firing Winky and though Ron rolls his eyes, Sirius is very interested to hear about Winky's activities during the World Cup that led to her being fired. They wonder if any of the Malfoys stole Harry's wand in the top box and they discuss Bagman. The news that Bagman keeps trying to help Harry concerns Sirius. As Hermione angrily says that Winky was fired because she tried to save herself and Ron tells her to stop, Sirius says that Hermione has a point--it's important to note that Mr. Crouch treats people who are powerless poorly.

Sirius says that Mr. Crouch's absences aren't normal and, when Harry asks, says that he knows Mr. Crouch because he's the one who sent him to Azkaban without a trial. He says that Crouch was poised to be Minister of Magic and was power-hungry, but not Dark. He trails off and says that the trio wouldn't understand and when Ron asks him to explain, Sirius agrees. He sets the stage: Voldemort is powerful, and nobody can tell who's acting of their own accord and who isn't. People are dying. Sirius says that in this climate, Crouch rose quickly and authorized the Unforgivable Curses against suspected Dark wizards. What stopped his rise to the top was when Crouch's son, Barty, was caught with a group of Death Eaters.

Sirius doesn't know if Barty Crouch was a Death Eater and when Hermione asks if Mr. Crouch let his son off, Sirius laughs. He says that Mr. Crouch eliminates people who threaten his reputation. Barty Crouch got a trial but went to Azkaban. He died after a year. Mr. Crouch's wife died soon after and all of this damaged Mr. Crouch's reputation. Harry notes that Moody thinks that Mr. Crouch is obsessed with catching Dark wizards. Ron insists that this is why Mr. Crouch snuck into Snape's office, but Sirius says this doesn't make sense--Crouch has a ready-made cover to spy on Snape if he comes to the Tournament.

Sirius's desire to be close to Harry to protect and support him shows that Sirius is taking his role as Harry's godfather seriously and knows that he has a great deal of power to guide Harry through the Tournament and the difficulties of adolescence. By reading the paper, Sirius is able to model for the trio how to effectively gather information and interpret it to pick out things that might be true or important.



When Sirius cautions Ron to take it seriously that Mr. Crouch is cruel to his inferiors, it shows Ron that a person is judged by all their actions--and that no action is neutral, even if what Mr. Crouch did seems "normal" by most Wizarding standards. This also gives Hermione a boost in terms of supporting S.P.E.W., as it suggests to her that Sirius believes that freeing house-elves is a good and important endeavor.



When Ron asks Sirius to explain what he means and not treat the trio like children, it shows that all three of them are craving interactions with adults in which they're also treated like adults. This is one of the strongest markers that Harry, Ron, and Hermione are coming of age, as it shows that they want to grow up and are trying to do so. It's also important that Sirius is able to see that Mr. Crouch is on the side of good, but still acted like a bad person in major ways. This again shows that people aren't just good or evil.



When Sirius says that it was a mistake for Mr. Crouch to prioritize his reputation over anything else, it suggests that there is more to life than power and prestige, and that being kind can get a person further than being cruel in the name of good. Notably, sending his son to Azkaban represents a major lack of empathy or love on Mr. Crouch's part, suggesting that he never learned this aspect of adulthood and maturity.



Hermione and Ron argue about whether or not they can trust Snape. Sirius says that he's unsure why Dumbledore trusts Snape, as all of Snape's friends at school became Death Eaters. Harry tells Sirius about Snape's conversation with Karkaroff yesterday, which Sirius can't make sense of. After a moment of thoughtful silence, Sirius asks if Ron will write to Percy and see what Mr. Crouch is up to, especially in regards to Bertha Jorkins. Sirius says that people say that Bertha was forgetful, but he knew her. She was dim, but remembered gossip perfectly.

Sirius tells Harry, Ron, and Hermione to head back to school and in parting, tells them to be safe. He turns into his dog form and walks them back to the edge of town. As the trio re-enters the Hogwarts grounds, they wonder if Percy knows what Sirius knows about Mr. Crouch.

Sirius's assessment of Bertha Jorkins opens up the possibility that there's more to her and to her disappearance than anyone else believes possible. Further, note that Sirius believes that Bertha's memory was just fine, while Bagman seems convinced that Bertha could forget anything. This suggests the possibility that something happened to Bertha between the present and when Sirius knew her.



Wondering if Percy knows this information about Mr. Crouch shows that Ron, Harry, and Hermione recognize that Percy has the opportunity to make choices, just like Mr. Crouch, and can prioritize either his family or his work.



CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

The next day, after sending a letter to Percy, Harry, Ron, and Hermione stop in the kitchen to give Dobby his new socks. Dobby cries from happiness as the other elves bring tea. Ron asks for eclairs for himself and extra food for Sirius, and then Hermione asks where Winky is. Dobby points to the fireplace, where Winky is sitting on a stool with a bottle of butterbeer. Her clothes are dirty and she appears drunk. Dobby explains that butterbeer is very alcoholic for house-elves and she's going through six bottles per day. She's still upset about Mr. Crouch and won't accept that Dumbledore is her master.

Harry asks Winky if she has any idea what Mr. Crouch might be doing, since he's not coming to the Tournament events. Winky sways and starts to hiccup when she hears that Mr. Crouch might be ill, and says that Mr. Crouch trusted her with his most important secret. She scolds Harry for prying into Mr. Crouch's personal life and then passes out. Other elves cover her with a tablecloth and apologize to their human visitors for Winky's behavior. Hermione suggests that they try to cheer her up, but a house-elf politely explains that house-elves don't have the right to be unhappy when there are things to do. Hermione shouts to the elves that they have the right to be happy like Dobby is. At this, Dobby looks scared and the other elves angrily push the trio out of the kitchen.

Again, it's important to note that even though Winky is clearly unhappy being free, Hermione is still spearheading S.P.E.W. based on her interpretation of Winky's experience; Hermione hasn't ever asked Winky what she wants or needs. Though Hermione's heart is in the right place, this shows that she's doing a poor job of being an advocate and instigating meaningful change.



For the most part, this is where the novel leaves the question of house-elf liberation. By leaving it here, Goblet of Fire encourages the reader to come to their own conclusions about what Hermione is doing, using Winky's clear unhappiness and Hermione's continued unwillingness to listen. Further, when Dobby seems afraid and wants to be left out of Hermione's agitating, it shows that he recognizes that he's an outlier and that most house-elves don't want what he wants, again calling Hermione's entire project into question.



The next morning at breakfast, Hermione explains that she's subscribed to the *Daily Prophet* so that they can stop finding things out from the Slytherins. Several owls land in front of Hermione with letters. She starts to sputter and throws one letter at Harry. It's composed with letters cut from a newspaper and tells Hermione that she's wicked. Another letter contains undiluted bubotuber pus, which makes Hermione's hands erupt in painful boils. As Hermione runs to the hospital wing, Ron says that he knew this would happen if Hermione annoyed Rita Skeeter. Hermione is gone for the entire morning and Harry tries to ignore the Slytherins' taunts.

During Care of Magical Creatures, Hagrid greets the class with new crates containing fuzzy creatures he calls nifflers. They're treasure hunters and Hagrid says that they're going to each choose a niffler and send them into a patch of earth in which Hagrid buried gold coins. The class is fun and Ron's niffler is very good. Hermione arrives near the end of class, just as Hagrid asks students to count their coins. Hagrid growls at Goyle that stealing coins won't do him any good--it's leprechaun gold, and it will disappear.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione stay to help Hagrid put the nifflers away. They notice Maxime watching Hagrid as Hagrid asks Hermione about her hands. After she tells him about her hate mail, he counsels her to stop opening it. On the way up to the castle, Ron frowns and when Harry asks what's wrong, Ron asks Harry why he never said anything about the fact that Ron paid Harry back for the Omnioculars with leprechaun gold. Harry admits that he didn't notice it was missing, which annoys Ron--he says it must be great to have enough money to not notice Galleons missing. He says he hates being poor.

Hermione ignores her hate mail for the next week, though she continues to angrily wonder how Rita Skeeter is listening to private conversations. She stays late after Defense Against the Dark Arts to ask Moody if he's seen Skeeter under an Invisibility Cloak, but he hasn't seen her. Harry suggests that Skeeter is electronically bugging Hermione, but Hermione says that according to [Hogwarts: A History](#), Muggle technology doesn't work at Hogwarts.

Hedwig brings a reply from Percy at the end of the Easter holiday with a package from Mrs. Weasley. Harry and Ron receive huge eggs filled with toffee, but Hermione's egg is tiny. She quietly asks if Mrs. Weasley reads *Witch Weekly*, and Ron confirms that she does. Percy's letter says that Mr. Crouch is taking a break and he's tired of shutting down rumors.

By subscribing to the Daily Prophet herself, Hermione shows that Rita Skeeter's articles have taught her the importance of gathering and interpreting her own information on her own time, rather than listening to what others tell her is true or correct. The hate mail indicates that there are consequences for going against Skeeter, even for someone as confident as Hermione.



By introducing the students to nifflers, Hagrid introduces students to tools that they may be able to use in the future, which is exactly what the purpose of Hogwarts classes is. This allows students to move into the world knowing about the animals they share their world with.



This conversation about the leprechaun gold and Harry and Ron's differing financial situations again shows Harry that he has a great deal of power to make Ron feel as though he can compete and be on equal footing. Again, this comes back to the choices that Harry has to make when he wants to make his friends feel good and recognizing that something that's inconsequential for him might be very important for Ron.



When Hermione invokes Hogwarts: A History in this situation, it shows that she's beginning to come to terms with the new way that she has to engage with the book. For questions like this it can still provide answers, but Hermione will still need to check what she finds to make sure that she learns the entire truth.



Though it could be just that Percy doesn't want to answer Ron's questions at all, his mention of being tired of shutting down rumors suggests that Percy isn't willing to question what's going on for anyone.



In the last week of May, McGonagall tells Harry to go to the Quidditch field at nine to hear what the third task is. Harry meets Cedric in the entrance hall and when they get to the Quidditch field, they see that it's covered in hedges. Bagman explains that they're growing a maze. The Triwizard Cup will be in the center, there will be obstacles all through the maze, and the first champion to get the cup will win. He explains that Harry and Cedric will enter first, then Krum, then Fleur.

As they begin to leave the maze, Krum asks Harry for a word. He leads Harry to the edge of the forest and asks if there's anything between him and Hermione. Harry insists that they're just friends. Krum smiles and compliments Harry on his flying in the first task but then he hears something in the woods. The two boys turn as Mr. Crouch stumbles out. He looks awful and tells a tree to send an owl to Dumbledore. He ignores Harry until, quite suddenly, he grabs Harry's robes and asks to see Dumbledore. He says he's done something stupid and needs to tell. However, in the next moment, he resumes talking to the tree. Harry asks Krum to stay with Mr. Crouch while he fetches Dumbledore, but Mr. Crouch grabs Harry again and says something about Bertha Jorkins, Barty Crouch, and Voldemort.

Harry frees himself and races to Dumbledore's office. He tells the gargoyle "lemon drop," but it's apparently no longer the password. Harry starts running to the staff room, but Snape catches him. Harry tries to tell Snape what's going on, but Snape refuses to help Harry. Dumbledore emerges from his office and follows Harry down to the forest. Harry explains what Mr. Crouch said and Dumbledore walks faster when he learns that Mr. Crouch is with Krum. Past the Beauxbatons carriage, Harry can't hear anyone. Dumbledore lights his wand and discovers Krum on the ground, unconscious. Dumbledore sends something silvery in the direction of Hagrid's cabin and revives Krum. Krum explains that Mr. Crouch attacked him.

Hagrid arrives and Dumbledore sends him to fetch Karkaroff. Moody arrives and begins searching the woods for Mr. Crouch. Hagrid returns with Karkaroff, who immediately shouts that Dumbledore and the Ministry aren't playing fair. He spits at Dumbledore's feet and at this, Hagrid lifts him and slams him against a tree. Dumbledore sends Hagrid to the castle with Harry and tells Harry to stay in the common room. As they walk, Hagrid angrily asks why Harry trusted Krum. He says that they can't trust anyone.

The maze will require the champions to have a general knowledge of all manner of hexes, curses, and magical creatures, which positions the maze as being a symbolic representation of the real Wizarding world. In this way, the Tournament tests champions' maturity and ability to function as adults, not just their prowess as witches and wizards.



The trajectory of Harry and Krum's conversation suggests that the two have the beginnings of a friendship, but Mr. Crouch's appearance demonstrates how the outside world can complicate these fledgling relationships. The snippets of information that Mr. Crouch is able to share with Harry confirm that there's more going on than Harry and the adults around him have considered, though it's also important to note that Mr. Crouch seems disturbed--this will compromise how trustworthy he's perceived as being.



The fact that Dumbledore picks up the pace when he hears that Krum is with Mr. Crouch suggests that on some level, he may agree with the others around him and not trust his foreign guests entirely. As in other cases, this shows that not even someone as good and wonderful as Dumbledore is exempt from having thoughts that rely on thinking ill of others just because they're different than he is.



When Karkaroff jumps immediately to believing that Hogwarts and England are doing this to jeopardize Durmstrang's chances at the Triwizard Cup, it shows that Karkaroff still prioritizes winning and believes that that's the true point of the Tournament. Hagrid's angry advice to Harry shows how easy it is, in times like this, for reasonable people to become suspicious of others.



CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

The next morning, Harry, Ron, and Hermione discuss that either Mr. Crouch attacked Krum or someone attacked both of them. They send a letter to Sirius and in the Owlery, Harry explains again what Mr. Crouch said. Ron is concerned that Mr. Crouch was talking about Voldemort getting stronger. Ron suggests that Snape held Harry up on purpose and they decide to ask Moody if he saw Mr. Crouch on the map. They stop talking when they hear Fred and George approaching, talking about something that could be construed as blackmail. They're surprised to see the trio but say that they won't ask questions if the trio won't either. Ron, however, is concerned that the twins are blackmailing someone.

After the twins leave, Ron uncomfortably says that Fred and George are obsessed with making money and are serious about starting their joke shop. They wonder if the twins know anything about Mr. Crouch and how far they'd go to get money. The day goes painfully slowly. Even Hermione struggles to stay awake during History of Magic. After, they go find Moody. Moody pulls them into a classroom, admits he didn't find Crouch last night, and they discuss how Mr. Crouch may have disappeared. He tells Hermione that she'd also make a good Auror and then tells the trio that there's nothing they can do but concentrate on getting Harry through the third task.

The next morning, Harry receives a letter from Sirius reprimanding him for going into the forest with Krum and asking him to promise to not go out of bounds. Harry is offended, but Hermione points out that someone wants to hurt Harry since they put his name in the Goblet of Fire.

Harry spends the next few days learning hexes and curses. Ron and Hermione help Harry during lunch and then Harry and Ron head upstairs for Divination. The room is boiling, so Harry cracks a window. Trelawney dims the lights and Harry dozes off, listening to an insect outside the window. In his dream he rides an eagle owl to an old house. He sees a huge snake and Wormtail on either side of a chair. Voldemort's voice comes from the chair, saying that Wormtail's mistake won't ruin everything. Voldemort performs the Cruciatus Curse on Wormtail and Harry wakes up on the floor, screaming, his scar burning.

Ron's choice to involve himself in whatever Fred and George are potentially doing shows that he's beginning to learn the importance of looking out for his family members and trying to keep them safe and on the right side of the law, though it's also telling that Fred and George don't give Ron the opportunity to empathize with them. Instead, they recognize that by denying Ron this, they can maintain their secrets. This shows again how behaving in this manner has its uses.



The discomfort that Ron seems to feel with the twins' trajectory shows that at this point, he still agrees with Mrs. Weasley and doesn't take Fred and George's dreams for the future seriously. When the trio approaches Moody to discuss what happened with Mr. Crouch, Moody uses the fact that they trust him to point them in the direction that he wants them to go: he wants Harry to do well in the maze and knows how to use their trust to make this happen.



The suspicion surrounding Krum continues to illustrate how, in times like this, it's very easy for people to begin to suspect those that they might not otherwise.



Harry's dream and the very physically painful effect it has on him suggests that what he sees may be real. This continues to expand Harry's conception of what the world outside of Hogwarts is like and, specifically, what the evil parts of the world consist of. Further, after Moody's lesson on the Unforgivable Curses, Harry can make better sense of seeing the Cruciatus Curse in action.



Trelawney wants to know what Harry saw, but Harry says he has a headache and excuses himself to the hospital wing. However, Harry decides to seek out Dumbledore instead. At the gargoyle that guards Dumbledore's office, Harry lists candies until the gargoyle leaps aside at "cockroach cluster." Harry climbs the staircase but waits outside, listening to Fudge talking about Bertha Jorkins's disappearance and insisting it's not linked to Mr. Crouch's. Fudge wonders if Madame Maxime is to blame and Dumbledore accuses Fudge of being prejudiced. Moody tells Dumbledore that Harry is outside.

Everything that Fudge says here should raise suspicions that he's not as much of an ally as Harry and Dumbledore currently seem to believe, given that he openly suspects Madame Maxime and likely also doesn't think highly of Hagrid either, despite years of evidence to the contrary. Unlike Sirius and Dumbledore, Fudge clearly isn't reading between the lines or connecting dots.



CHAPTER THIRTY

Moody lets Harry in and Fudge greets him happily. Harry notes that he didn't see Maxime the night that Mr. Crouch disappeared, which makes Fudge blush. Dumbledore instructs Harry to wait for him while he shows Fudge the grounds and the three adults leave. Harry greets Fawkes, Dumbledore's phoenix, and sits down. He notices an open cabinet that seems to be glowing. Inside is a shallow basin filled with silvery material. Harry pokes it with his wand and it begins to swirl and reveal an image. Harry notices that he's looking into a room with a chair with chains in the middle. He moves closer to see better and as his nose meets the substance, Harry lurches into the basin and finds himself sitting next to Dumbledore.

When Harry acknowledges what he heard and calls Fudge on his prejudice, it shows that Harry is already developing ways to use his privilege and power to stand up to others in front of other powerful people. Fudge is especially important to do this to, given that he's the one in charge of the entire Wizarding world and, if he so chooses, could make life difficult for people like Hagrid and Maxime if he fears them enough to do so.



Neither Dumbledore nor the other 200 witches and wizards seem to notice Harry. Harry remembers falling into a memory before and to test if this is the same thing, he waves his hand in front of Dumbledore's face. When he gets no reaction, Harry observes the room carefully. The room is arranged to allow everyone to view the chair in the middle. Two dementors escort a much younger Karkaroff into the room and place him in the chair. The chains bind him. Mr. Crouch appears to be in charge and asks Karkaroff for information he promised to share. Harry notices Moody, who mutters that Crouch is going to let Karkaroff out. Nervously, Karkaroff offers several names. Crouch says that they've already caught all but one, but then, Karkaroff names Snape. At this, Dumbledore stands and says that Snape was a Death Eater, but turned spy for Dumbledore.

Moody's muttering and his attitude suggests that he's not convinced that, once a person goes to the Dark side and pledges allegiance to Voldemort, they're capable of ever coming back and rejoining society. It's also important to note that this is the only time that Harry is in the presence of the real Moody, which means that what he sees in the Pensieve is information that the reader can take as truth. The revelation that Snape actually was a Death Eater at one point complicates his backstory and what the trio knows about him, which reminds them that even Snape is a multifaceted individual.



The scene dissolves and changes. Harry finds himself in a different seat and notices a younger Rita Skeeter and an older-looking Mr. Crouch. Harry realizes that this is a different day. Bagman, young and strong, nervously sits down in the chair. Mr. Crouch asks Bagman if he has anything to add in regards to his relationship with the Death Eaters before the council reaches their decision. Mr. Crouch suggests that Bagman spend time in Azkaban for passing information to the Death Eaters, but witches and wizards cry out angrily. Bagman insists he had no idea the person he was speaking to was a Death Eater. Mr. Crouch calls a vote. Nobody votes to put Bagman in Azkaban, but one witch congratulates Bagman on a match last weekend. Mr. Crouch looks furious.

The scene changes again and now, Harry and Dumbledore sit next to Mr. Crouch. The room is silent, save for one small witch crying on the other side of Mr. Crouch. Six dementors usher in four people. One is Barty Crouch, who looks to be in his late teens. He looks terrified. Mr. Crouch looks at the four with hatred and says that they're charged with capturing Frank Longbottom and his wife and torturing them with the Cruciatus Curse. He ignores Barty's cries and sentences the group to life in Azkaban. Barty screams to his mother that he's innocent. Harry hears Dumbledore next to him say that it's time to return to his office and the present Dumbledore pulls Harry out of the memory.

Harry apologizes for snooping, but Dumbledore seems unworried. He explains that the bowl is a Pensieve and it allows him to view his thoughts at leisure. To demonstrate, Dumbledore puts his wand to his temple and draws away what looks like a silvery hair. He drops it into the Pensieve and Snape appears, saying that "it" is coming back. Dumbledore prods the thoughts again and a scowling girl rises up. She's a young Bertha Jorkins.

Harry tells Dumbledore about his dream and Dumbledore reveals that he's been communicating with Sirius and knows that Harry's scar hurt over the summer. Dumbledore explains that he believes that Harry's scar hurts when Voldemort is near or feeling hateful, as he thinks Harry and Voldemort are connected through the scar. Harry says that he didn't see Voldemort in his dream and confirms that there wouldn't be anything to see, since Voldemort doesn't have a body. Harry asks if Voldemort is getting stronger. Heavily, Dumbledore says that last time, Voldemort's rise began with strange disappearances and thus far, there have been three--though most wizards don't read Muggle papers and aren't concerned about Frank Bryce's disappearance.

The tenor and the outcome of Bagman's trial suggests that because Bagman is a beloved sports icon for so many, it's unthinkable that he could be working for Voldemort--nobody wants to believe that their idol is evil. The way that Mr. Crouch treats Bagman suggests that he agrees with the Moody from the last scene: Bagman is now fundamentally untrustworthy because he's flirted with evil.



This trial confirms what Sirius told Harry about Mr. Crouch: he hatefully put his own son in Azkaban without much proof of his crimes. While there's no way to know whether this is a final hearing or one that's supposed to encompass the entire process of finding wrongdoing, it's clear that Mr. Crouch hasn't listened to his son and thinks he's unsalvageable, just like Bagman.



The Pensieve allows Dumbledore to read his thoughts in a way that allows him to think critically about them with more ease. This again reminds Harry that he can critically read events just as he can critically read print media.



When Dumbledore admits to reading the Muggle papers, it shows that he understands the value in drawing from a variety of perspectives as he takes in information about the world. It also shows that he's fully aware of how connected the Wizarding world and the Muggle world actually are, as he suggests that Frank Bryce's disappearance is likely related to Voldemort. This shows Harry that though the Wizarding world exists in isolation, it can spill over, especially during difficult times.



Harry hesitantly asks if, in the last trial he saw, they were talking about Neville's parents. Dumbledore asks if Neville hasn't told anyone why his grandmother is raising him and says that Frank Longbottom was an Auror. The Death Eaters tortured him after Voldemort's fall. Both Longbottoms are insane, are in St. Mungo's Hospital, and don't recognize Neville. He says that their testimony was unreliable, given their condition, and Harry asks if this means that Barty Crouch might be innocent. He also asks about Bagman and Snape, and Dumbledore says that neither is a Death Eater. As Harry leaves, Dumbledore asks him to keep the truth about Neville's parents a secret and wishes him luck for the third task.

The fact that the Longbottoms couldn't give reliable testimony again brings up the question of who in society is believable, while Barty Crouch's sentencing despite this unreliable testimony shows that the Wizarding world isn't particularly concerned with truly giving everyone justice. When Dumbledore asks Harry to keep this revelation about Neville's parents secret, he's asking Harry to treat Neville with the empathy that Neville doesn't often receive from his classmates.



CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

Harry shares everything with Ron, Hermione, and Sirius except for what he learned about Neville. Ron is incredulous that Dumbledore trusts Snape. Hermione says that this is what Rita Skeeter and Winky were talking about in reference to Bagman. Ron wonders if Fudge's suspicion of Madame Maxime has any truth, given her parentage, but Hermione insists that it makes sense that Maxime would deny having a giant parent. They all head to bed and as Harry puts on pajamas, he thinks that Neville deserves sympathy about his parents more than Harry does. Harry flashes on the fear in Barty Crouch's face and thinks that Voldemort is responsible for tearing these families apart.

Harry's willingness to follow through and honor Dumbledore's request to keep the truth about Neville's parents secret shows that he's beginning to mature and truly come of age emotionally. Further, his interpretation of the way in which Voldemort tears families apart and creates a world in which empathy and kindness cannot function properly shows that Harry is beginning to see that by learning to be empathetic, he'll be able to go on to fight Voldemort.



Rather than study for exams, Hermione and Ron dedicate most of their time to helping Harry prepare for the third task. Ron excitedly says that the hexes they're practicing will prepare them to be Aurors. McGonagall gives the trio permission to use her classroom for practice and one afternoon, Ron looks out the window and notices Malfoy standing under a tree, seemingly speaking into his hand. Sirius sends letters daily and reminds Harry that he shouldn't worry about what's going on outside of Hogwarts.

The excitement that Ron expresses about being an Auror someday shows that at least when it's fun and exciting, he's looking forward to adult life in the Wizarding world. This represents a major step for Ron, especially since deciding he wants to be an Auror shows that he understands there's a dark side of the Wizarding world that requires policing.



On the morning of the third task, Hermione gets her *Daily Prophet* and spits pumpkin juice on it in surprise. Ron takes it, insults Rita Skeeter, and tries to keep Harry from reading the article. Malfoy shouts and asks if Harry's head is okay, and Ron reluctantly gives Harry the paper. Skeeter's article suggests that Harry is "unstable and possibly dangerous" and mentions Harry's scar pain during Divination. It includes an interview with Malfoy revealing that Harry can speak Parseltongue (can talk to snakes). It also says that Harry is friends with "vicious creatures" like werewolves and giants, thereby suggesting Harry is violent and possibly evil. Ron asks how Skeeter found out about Divination and Hermione suddenly gets an odd look on her face. She runs her fingers through her hair and races to the library.

This article is Rita Skeeter's masterpiece, as it draws together everything she's somehow learned about Harry that can be construed as bad and puts it together in a way that guarantees that for anyone who reads and believes her work, Harry isn't credible. In doing so, Skeeter makes sure that the news media is in control and that Harry isn't in control of telling his story, given that nobody will listen. When Hermione runs to the library, it shows that she still believes it's capable of helping her figure this sort of thing out, provided she critically evaluates what she reads.



McGonagall approaches Harry and says that he needs to report to the chamber off of the Great Hall, as champions' families are invited to watch the third task. Harry blankly wonders if the Dursleys are actually there as he watches Fleur, Krum, and Cedric enter the room off the hall. Cedric sticks his head out and calls for Harry. Perplexed, Harry enters the room, where Mrs. Weasley and Bill greet him warmly. Mr. Diggory tells Harry that he must not feel as confident now that he and Cedric are tied. Cedric tells Harry that his dad has been upset since Rita Skeeter's first article. Harry spends the day walking around the school with Mrs. Weasley and Bill and learns that Percy isn't doing well, as people suspect that Mr. Crouch isn't writing the instructions he's sending. Fudge will be the fifth judge tonight.

At lunch, Ron and the other Weasleys are shocked to see Mrs. Weasley and Bill. Mrs. Weasley greets Hermione stiffly and Harry incredulously tells Mrs. Weasley that Hermione isn't his girlfriend. Mrs. Weasley also sighs that it's nice to not have to cook. After the evening feast, Dumbledore excuses the champions to follow Bagman to the field. The hedges are now 20 feet high. As the stands fill, Hagrid, Moody, McGonagall, and Flitwick appear. They'll be there to rescue anyone who sends up red sparks from the maze.

Bagman reminds the crowd where everyone stands on points--Harry and Cedric are tied for first, followed by Krum and then Fleur. Bagman releases Harry and Cedric into the maze and the two part ways when they reach the first fork. Harry listens as the other two champions enter the maze and he uses a charm to make his wand point north. He doesn't find anything in his way until Cedric appears, having just shaken off a Blast-Ended Skrewt. Harry hurries in the other direction until he finds a dementor. The dementor trips when Harry sends his Patronus at it, and he realizes it's a boggart.

After a few more minutes, Harry comes across a floating golden mist. He shoots a curse through it and before he can decide whether to step through or not, he hears Fleur scream. Harry starts to run but stops when he realizes the world is upside down. When he takes a step, the world rights again. Harry looks for signs of Fleur and wonders if she's okay while also thinking that she's possibly no longer in the running.

Harry's unwillingness to suspect that the Weasleys might act as his family shows that, though he's known the family for four years now, he still doesn't view them as integral members of his community--they're still just his best friend's parents. Mr. Diggory's comments to Harry show that he takes Rita Skeeter's reporting seriously and because of this, he joins a number of other witches and wizards who don't critically evaluate their media. He does this, however, in an attempt to support Cedric, which again blurs the lines between good and bad.



It's important to note that Hermione expresses little sympathy for Mrs. Weasley when she performs the same domestic labor as a house-elf, also without pay. This suggests that Hermione is more focused on the fact that the house-elves aren't human than on the greater societal issues regarding domestic work, who performs it, and how they're compensated or not.



The creatures that Harry meets help to build his confidence and show him that he's capable of succeeding in an environment designed with fully-grown and better-trained wizards in mind. This helps Harry feel mature and on top of things and suggests that he's getting to the end of his journey towards coming of age.



When the positive and negative thoughts about Fleur exist side by side in Harry's mind, it shows that he's just as capable of thinking selfishly as anyone else. Again, it's up to him to choose which thoughts will win out and, in doing so, choose if he wants to be a good or a bad person.



Ten minutes later, Harry meets a Blast-Ended Skrewt. It's ten feet long and Harry's curses bounce off of it. He manages to hit its underside, which has no armor, and stops the skrewt. Harry races away and a few minutes later, he hears Cedric talking to Krum and Krum saying, "*Crucio!*" Cedric screams. Harry blasts through the hedge and Stupefies Krum. Harry and Cedric nervously discuss how they thought Krum was an okay person and they wonder if Krum got Fleur too. Cedric sends sparks up over Krum so someone will come get him and then he and Harry part ways.

As Harry moves through the maze, he wonders if Krum wanted to win badly enough to do something that would earn him a life sentence in Azkaban. After a few minutes, Harry comes across a sphinx. She tells Harry that if he can answer her riddle, he can pass. If he's wrong she'll attack, but he can walk away without answering if he wants. She gives him the riddle and Harry is able to solve it. Harry gets to another fork and sees the cup. However, Cedric is ahead and running for it.

Harry sees a giant spider come over the hedge at Cedric and yells to him. Cedric trips and Harry tries to curse the spider. The spider turns on Harry and lifts him into the air. Harry's leg connects painfully with a pincer, he falls to the ground, and he and Cedric curse the spider at the same time. It falls over and Cedric checks to make sure Harry is okay. Harry's leg is bleeding and won't support his weight, so he tells Cedric to take the cup. Cedric looks back and forth between Harry and the cup but refuses to win. They argue until finally Harry suggests they take it together. Cedric helps Harry to the cup. As they grab it, Harry feels a lurch in his belly and he and Cedric fly away.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

When Harry and Cedric land, Harry's leg gives out. Cedric pulls Harry up and they see that they're in a dark graveyard. Neither of them knew the cup was a Portkey and they discuss whether this is part of the task. Harry feels like someone is watching them and notices a figure walking towards them, carrying what seems like a baby in its arms. When the figure stops, Harry's scar explodes with pain. As he writhes on the ground, he hears Voldemort say, "kill the spare" and then he hears the Killing Curse. Harry vomits from the pain. He opens his eyes to see Cedric, dead beside him.

Though the reader and Harry learn later that Krum was acting under the Imperius curse when he did this to Cedric, this apparent turn towards the Dark side shows Harry that he should think twice about whom he trusts. However, it's also worth noting that Barty Crouch orchestrates this and, being on Voldemort's side, doesn't want Harry to trust anyone.



Harry's curiosity regarding Krum's motive suggests importantly that though Harry would like to win, it's not at the top of his priorities right now; he'd rather make it through alive and, even more importantly, play this game fairly.



By choosing to make the end of the Tournament a win for Hogwarts, not a win for an individual, Harry and Cedric show that they've taken the purpose of the Tournament to heart and, in choosing to put aside their differences for the greater good, have also learned to be empathetic and kind to other people.



The language that Voldemort uses to describe Cedric--he's not even human, just a "spare"--shows that Voldemort doesn't value life at all, other than his own. It's also important to note that Cedric dies just because he inadvertently crosses Voldemort's path, not because he did anything wrong. This flings Harry into the adult world, where things don't always happen for good reasons and aren't fair.



Before Harry can process this, the figure, Wormtail, lifts Harry and ties him to the headstone of Tom Riddle's grave. Wormtail stuffs cloth in Harry's mouth and then walks away, leaving Harry to stare at Cedric's body and the bundle. Harry's scar blazes again. He notices a giant snake circling the headstone and sees Wormtail return with a full cauldron. He lights a fire and when the cauldron's contents are hot, Wormtail opens the bundle. It contains a horrific child-shaped figure that's scaly, red, and snakelike, and Wormtail drops it into the cauldron.

While Voldemort dehumanizes everyone around him, it's telling that the body he currently possesses seems far from human--it's revolting in a way the text's tone suggests is beyond the capacity of the human body. When Harry doesn't have the time to process Cedric's death, it reminds the reader that life moves quickly and, going forward, Harry won't necessarily have time to mourn losses or properly prepare for tragedy.



In a terrified voice, Wormtail draws bone from the grave at Harry's feet and puts it into the cauldron. He pulls a dagger out and Harry closes his eyes so he doesn't see Wormtail cut off his own right hand and toss it in. Then, Wormtail takes blood from Harry's arm and adds it to the mixture. The potion turns a blinding white and Harry hopes that the creature will drown. Thick steam starts to rise and Voldemort emerges from it.

With Voldemort's return, the novel heralds the beginning of something most witches and wizards thought ended thirteen years ago and demonstrates that history can and will repeat itself when individuals in power don't do enough to stop it.



CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

Voldemort examines his body and then, pulling a wand out of his pocket, points it at Wormtail and slams him against a headstone. Wormtail reminds Voldemort that he promised something, and Voldemort tells Wormtail to hold out his arm. He pulls out Wormtail's left arm, not his hurt one, and Harry sees the Dark Mark on it. Voldemort touches it and Harry's scar flashes with pain again. As he waits, Voldemort tells Harry that this is his father's grave. Harry hears wizards Apparating. They're all masked and one by one, they kiss Voldemort's feet and then stand in a circle. The circle has gaps as if they're expecting others.

Though Voldemort is inarguably evil, it's telling that he chooses to do something for himself (summon his Death Eaters) before he does something for someone else (heal Wormtail's pain, which he clearly has the power to do). This has the added bonus for Voldemort of impressing upon his followers that he doesn't much care for them as individuals; they only matter to him as long as they're useful.



Voldemort welcomes his Death Eaters and reprimands them for not coming to help him sooner. He suggests that they're now loyal to Dumbledore and one man throws himself forward, asking for forgiveness. Voldemort performs the Cruciatus Curse on the man and turns to Wormtail. He waves his wand, forms a silver hand, and affixes it to Wormtail's wrist. Wormtail kisses Voldemort's feet and takes his place in the circle. Voldemort then greets Lucius Malfoy, asks about his "fun" at the Quidditch World Cup, and asks why he ran when he saw the Mark.

By giving Wormtail this hand and relieving his pain, Voldemort shows that he is capable of helping people--he just chooses not to, and when he does something for someone, it's only as an example. For this reason it's important to recognize that Voldemort does this in front of his Death Eaters, which ensures that they'll see he's capable of being kind and then want to earn favors too.



Voldemort continues around the circle, greeting the Death Eaters and noting who is dead or in Azkaban. At the largest gap, he notes that one "faithful servant" is at Hogwarts. Then, he introduces Harry to the Death Eaters. Lucius Malfoy asks Voldemort to explain how he came back to his body. Voldemort explains that Lily Potter's sacrifice saved Harry but now, he can touch Harry. He demonstrates, which makes Harry's scar burn with pain again. He continues that he lived in forests and possessed animals while he waited for a Death Eater to return to help him. He details what happened when he possessed Professor Quirrell and how he lost out on the Sorcerer's Stone. Then, last year, Wormtail found him in Albania.

When Voldemort admits that he made a mistake the first time around and has since taken action to correct it, it shows that, like Dumbledore, Voldemort is capable of critical thought and of using new information to influence his actions. This reminds the reader that critical thought can be used to create evil, just as it can be used to fight it--Rita Skeeter's smear campaign shows how true this is, given all the people she's hurt with her articles.



Voldemort says that before Wormtail found him, he ran into Bertha Jorkins and kidnapped her. She was able to tell Voldemort about the Triwizard Tournament and, after Voldemort broke through her Memory Charm, he discovered other information. He killed her and invented a spell that returned him to an almost human form. Voldemort explains that to return entirely, he needed his father's bone, Wormtail's flesh, and Harry's blood. Using Bertha Jorkins's information, Voldemort stationed a Death Eater at Hogwarts who turned the cup into a Portkey and made sure that Harry got there first. At this, Voldemort hits Harry with the Cruciatus Curse. The Death Eaters laugh as Voldemort lifts the curse and says that he's going to duel with Harry and then kill him.

The elements that Voldemort uses in his spell to return to his body show that just as Harry is in the process of learning about the past as a way to confront the future, Voldemort also uses the past (his father, an old servant, and his previous downfall) to create a form that will allow strength going forward. Again, this shows that Harry and the side of good aren't the only ones who can use the novel's lessons to their advantage. Voldemort is a part of the world and because of this, he also gets to use what it has to offer.



CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

Wormtail approaches Harry, pulls the fabric out of Harry's mouth, and unties him. Harry's injured leg shakes as the Death Eaters close the circle. Harry remembers the short-lived dueling club at Hogwarts and thinks that he's unprepared for this. Voldemort asks Harry to bow, but Harry refuses. Voldemort uses his wand to make Harry bow and then immediately performs the Cruciatus Curse again. Harry ignores Voldemort asking if he wants to be hurt again and knows he's going to die like Cedric. When Harry refuses to answer, Voldemort puts Harry under the Imperius Curse. Harry breaks through it.

Even if Harry was able to make it through the Triwizard Tournament tasks and win the competition, his thoughts here show that he's still entirely unprepared for a real world that includes someone as evil and powerful as Voldemort. In this way, this duel with Voldemort becomes Harry's first real taste of a world unmediated by trustworthy adults, thrusting him into maturity and adulthood before he's really ready.



Before Voldemort can curse Harry again, Harry flings himself behind the headstone. Voldemort taunts Harry and Harry knows he's going to die. He decides that he's going to die standing. As he jumps around the headstone, he and Voldemort curse each other at the same time. The jets of light meet in the middle and suddenly, Harry's hand is glued to his wand and the beam of light connecting the wands becomes gold. Voldemort and Harry lift off the ground to a clear area and a thousand beams of light enclose them. Harry hears phoenix song and hears a voice in his head saying that he can't break the connection. Harry notices beads on the strand of light between the wands and realizes that he needs to push the beads towards Voldemort. Voldemort seems confused and panicky.

Harry concentrates and the bead finally makes contact with Voldemort's wand. Voldemort's wand begins to scream, Harry sees a ghost of Wormtail's new hand, and then a ghostly Cedric appears. An old man, Frank Bryce, appears next and encourages Harry. Then, Bertha Jorkins steps out, followed by Lily and then James. They approach Harry and tell him that when the connection breaks, they'll give Harry time to return to the Portkey and to Hogwarts. Cedric asks Harry to take his body back. Harry breaks the connection and Voldemort's victims converge on their killer. Harry races through the graveyard and reaches Cedric. He grabs Cedric's wrist, Summons the cup, and he and Cedric fly away as Voldemort screams.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

Harry slams face first into the ground and stays still, clutching the cup and Cedric's body. After a few seconds, someone turns Harry over and he looks up at Dumbledore. Harry lets go of the cup and tells Dumbledore that Voldemort is back. Fudge tries to pry Harry's hand off of Cedric's wrist, but Harry doesn't let go until Dumbledore puts Harry on his feet. People scream and Harry hears Dumbledore tell him to stay. Moody, however, steers Harry away and asks what happened. Harry says Voldemort returned and killed Cedric.

In his office, Moody gives Harry a hot potion and things come into focus. Harry talks a little more about Voldemort's potion, but then remembers that there's a Death Eater at Hogwarts. Harry wildly asks if the Death Eater is Karkaroff, but Moody says that Karkaroff fled. He admits that he, Moody, put Harry's name in the goblet. As Moody points his wand at Harry, he asks how Voldemort treated the Death Eaters who escaped Azkaban. Harry listens incredulously as Moody explains how he guided Harry and easily manipulated Cedric and Dobby into helping. He admits to putting Krum under the Imperius Curse in the maze and Stunning Fleur. Harry watches over Moody's shoulder as the figures in his mirror get sharper.

The fact that even Voldemort, a powerful adult wizard, seems afraid of what's happening shows Harry that there's more to the Wizarding world than he can ever learn in a lifetime, and he can't plan for everything. The fact that Harry doesn't panic and instead listens to his instincts and the phoenix song shows that in times like this, Harry is already skilled at drawing his own conclusions and doing what he feels is necessary to win.



When Harry does everything in his power to honor Cedric's ghost's request and take his body back, it shows that Harry understands that the best thing he can do sometimes is to listen to what someone tells him and truly hear what they're saying. At this point, there's no greater kindness that he can do for Cedric; what matters is that Cedric is able to experience dignity in death by not being left to the Death Eaters or to confused Muggles.



It's a red flag when Moody leads Harry away against Dumbledore's orders; this shows the reader--and Dumbledore--that Moody isn't who he says he is and doesn't actually respect Dumbledore's authority. However, the fact that Harry is willing to talk to Moody right now shows that he's in no state to make this connection and believes that Moody is still his trustworthy professor.



Moody's note that it was easy to manipulate Cedric and Dobby suggests that there are dangers to being as kind and as giving, as both Cedric and Dobby were. Going forward, this will show Harry that he needs to be cautious and carefully evaluate offers of help, as not all of them will be well-intentioned. The fact that Harry struggles to process and believe all of this speaks to the success with which Moody made Harry believe he was kind and trustworthy.



As Moody says that he's going to kill Harry, Dumbledore, Snape, and McGonagall blast open the door and stun Moody. Looking at Dumbledore, Harry understands why Voldemort fears him—he looks terrifying. McGonagall tries to take Harry, but Dumbledore insists that he needs to stay so he can understand. He tells Harry that this man isn't Moody, and sends Snape to fetch a Truth Potion as well as Winky. He then tells McGonagall to take the dog in Hagrid's pumpkin patch to his office. After they leave, Dumbledore begins unlocking Moody's trunk. When he uses the seventh key, he reveals a pit with the real Moody inside, unconscious. Dumbledore slips inside and points out the real Moody's hair—the imposter is using Polyjuice Potion. Harry and Dumbledore watch as "Moody" transforms into Barty Crouch.

Snape and McGonagall return and Winky throws herself at Barty. Dumbledore administers the Veritaserum to Barty, revives him, and asks how he escaped from Azkaban. Winky cries as Barty says that he and his mother used Polyjuice Potion to switch places with each other. She remained in Azkaban and died there, and Mr. Crouch staged his wife's death at home. Barty was kept under the Imperius Curse and an Invisibility Cloak and nobody but Bertha Jorkins knew he was still alive. Mr. Crouch altered her memory to make her forget, but the spell ruined her memory.

At Dumbledore's prodding, Barty says that Winky talked Mr. Crouch into letting him see the Quidditch World Cup. He and Winky sat in the top box all day, and he was already learning to fight the Imperius Curse at that time. He stole Harry's wand and when the Death Eaters began destroying tents, it made him angry. Winky bound Barty to her and pulled him away from the Death Eaters, but he still sent the Mark into the sky. The Ministry wizards stunned both of them, and Mr. Crouch discovered him and fired Winky.

Then, Barty says that Voldemort arrived, having discovered from Bertha Jorkins that he was still alive. Voldemort put Mr. Crouch under the Imperius Curse and sent Barty to take Moody's place so he could get into Hogwarts. Voldemort and Wormtail remained at the Crouch home and eventually, Mr. Crouch began to fight the Imperius Curse. He finally escaped and when he arrived at Hogwarts to confess, Barty saw him on the Marauder's Map and killed him. Finally, Barty says that he carried the cup into the maze earlier and turned it into a Portkey.

The fact that both Snape and McGonagall comply with Dumbledore's seemingly strange requests without question impresses upon the reader how trustworthy Dumbledore is, especially since, in Harry's mind, McGonagall and Snape are working on opposite sides. When Dumbledore discovers the real Moody inside his own trunk, it shows that Sirius was right in suspecting that someone tried to stop Moody from getting to Hogwarts—in other words, there is truth to be gleaned from Rita Skeeter's articles.



When Barty Crouch reveals that Mr. Crouch messed up Bertha Jorkins's Memory Charm, it suggests that the emotional nature of the situation compromised his father's abilities to properly perform the spell. This shows the reader that for all Mr. Crouch's faults, he did love his son and wanted to protect him, even if his methods were questionable and ultimately failed.



Barty's testimony reveals that Winky was struggling to walk through the woods because she was magically dragging Barty, not necessarily because she didn't have permission. This shows that though Winky failed in her attempt to follow through with Mr. Crouch's instructions, she did her very best and actually was capable of acting independently in a way she thought best.



Barty Crouch's mention of the Marauder's Map shows the reader and Harry again that they should take magical objects seriously, given that the reader now knows that Harry actually saw Barty Crouch in Snape's office, not Mr. Crouch. This again impresses upon Harry the importance of drawing on his world to come to accurate conclusions.



CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

Dumbledore binds Barty Crouch, leaves McGonagall in charge of him, and asks Snape to fetch Madam Pomfrey and Fudge. He then leads Harry to his office. There, Sirius asks what happened. Harry tunes out while Dumbledore fills Sirius in, and Fawkes comes to sit on Harry's lap. Then, Dumbledore asks Harry to tell him what happened and ignores Sirius's protests. He says that Harry needs to do this now, as it'll get harder if they postpone.

Harry tells Dumbledore and Sirius everything without stopping. Dumbledore only stops Harry when Harry says that Voldemort used his blood and can now touch him. Harry loses his voice when he gets to the point where his wand connected with Voldemort's. Dumbledore explains that they experienced *Priori Incantatem*, the reverse spell effect, because both Harry and Voldemort's wands contain feathers from Fawkes. He says that when two twin wands are forced to fight each other, this will happen. Harry explains that he saw Cedric, Frank Bryce, Bertha Jorkins, and his parents, and tells them about Cedric's final request. Fawkes moves to the floor and lets a tear drop into Harry's wound.

Dumbledore commends Harry for his bravery and then leads Harry and Sirius, in his dog form, to the hospital wing. They enter to find Mrs. Weasley, Bill, Ron, and Hermione asking Madam Pomfrey where Harry is. Dumbledore asks Mrs. Weasley to not question Harry and to let him sleep in peace. Harry feels thankful that Dumbledore asked the others to not question him. Dumbledore promises to return after he speaks to Fudge and then leaves. As Madam Pomfrey gives Harry pajamas, he asks if the real Moody will be okay. She says he will be as Harry climbs into bed. Madam Pomfrey returns with a potion and tells Harry to drink all of it. He falls asleep after only a few mouthfuls.

Harry feels warm and sleepy when he wakes up again. He hears Mrs. Weasley, Ron, Hermione, and Bill hissing that the noise will wake him and Harry hears McGonagall and Fudge's voices coming closer. McGonagall screeches that Fudge shouldn't have brought "it" inside as they burst into the wing, accompanied by Snape. Dumbledore appears and McGonagall shrieks that Fudge brought a dementor with him, and the dementor performed the Kiss on Barty Crouch. Fudge insists this isn't a loss and that Barty Crouch was out of his mind anyway, but Dumbledore says that Barty Crouch was perfectly sane and Voldemort was giving him instructions.

Now that Barty Crouch's true identity is known, Harry once again finds himself in the presence of adults he knows he can trust. This is why Harry is able to tell Dumbledore and Sirius what happened; he trusts them as authority figures with his best intentions in the forefront of their minds and knows they won't torment him for what he says.



Though Harry (and the reader, for that matter) would like to think that he has nothing in common with Voldemort, their twin wands and the fact that Voldemort now shares blood with Harry makes it clear that the two are connected. This reinforces that there isn't necessarily a clear line between good and evil. Instead, the differences lie in the choices people make, and everyone has the ability to choose whether to be good or bad.



By requesting that nobody question Harry, Dumbledore asks that everyone treat Harry with empathy in a situation where doing so is difficult, as everyone surely wants to know what happened. The fact that everyone honors Dumbledore's request shows that they're people Harry can trust to care for him, both as authority figures (in the case of Mrs. Weasley and Bill) and as friends (in the case of Ron and Hermione).



The revelation that Fudge acted without consulting anyone shows that, like Mr. Crouch, Fudge places more importance on his title and his station than anything else and is willing to use them to do whatever he wants, rather than using his power to do something good. His insistence that Barty Crouch was insane also shows that Fudge isn't capable of listening carefully or indeed, taking Truth Potions seriously--Snape explained earlier in the novel that they're guaranteed to work.



Dumbledore explains what he heard Barty Crouch say under the influence of Veritaserum, but Fudge insists that Voldemort can't be back. Dumbledore invites Fudge to his office and refuses to let him question Harry, but Fudge smiles strangely and asks if Dumbledore really believes Harry and a "lunatic murderer," meaning Barty. Harry quietly says that Fudge has been reading Rita Skeeter. Though Fudge looks a bit embarrassed, he says he wasn't happy to learn that Harry is a Parselmouth and has "funny turns." Dumbledore sternly insists that Harry is sane and Harry shouts that he saw Voldemort and lists names of Death Eaters. Fudge angrily says that Harry's stories get weirder every year and he's not trustworthy. McGonagall points out that Cedric and Mr. Crouch are dead, but Fudge accuses them of destabilizing the Wizarding world.

Harry can barely believe that Fudge is refusing to listen. Dumbledore tells Fudge what he should do: remove the dementors from Azkaban, as they'll support Voldemort and let prisoners go, and then send envoys to the giants before Voldemort promises them rights and freedom. Fudge thinks both of these suggestions are crazy and that doing either will end his career. Dumbledore angrily says that if Fudge acts, he'll be remembered as being brave and great, while he'll be solely responsible for Voldemort's return if he does nothing. He continues that this is the end of their relationship if Fudge won't see reason.

Fudge says once more that Voldemort can't be back and recoils when Snape shows Fudge the Dark Mark on his arm. Snape explains how the Mark works: when Voldemort touches a Mark, all Death Eaters are to Apparate to him. He says that this is why Karkaroff fled. Fudge curtly whispers that he needs to return to the Ministry and he drops Harry's winnings from the Tournament on the nightstand.

Dumbledore asks Mrs. Weasley help spread the news in the Ministry, and Bill leaves to tell Mr. Weasley. He then asks McGonagall to fetch Hagrid and Madame Maxime and sends Madam Pomfrey to care for Winky. With them gone, he asks Sirius to take his human form. Mrs. Weasley screams, while Snape looks furious. Dumbledore sternly asks Snape and Sirius to shake hands, as they're on the same side. Then, he sends Sirius to alert "the old crowd" and tells Snape that it's time to do what he knows he must. Snape leaves, an odd look in his eyes, and Dumbledore follows.

When Harry correctly ascertains that Fudge doesn't believe him because of what Rita Skeeter wrote about him, it again shows that what Harry is fighting against isn't necessarily Voldemort. Instead, Harry is fighting to make sure that the truth is heard by all and is doing so in a society where the media aren't willing to listen to truth—it's likely in their best interests to go along with whatever Fudge says, given how he behaved in regards to Barty Crouch. Additionally, Fudge's refusal to believe Harry on the grounds that Harry is a Parselmouth exposes his prejudice.



Dumbledore's insistence that the giants want rights and freedom opens up the novel to explore the magical creatures that do want the exact rights and freedoms that Hermione is currently wasting her time trying to get for house-elves. This suggests that Hermione's unwillingness to listen to the house-elves is blinding her to the many creatures that would want her help, again showing that her activism is ineffective.



Because Snape is an insider to Voldemort's inner workings, Fudge should trust him: Snape has no reason to lie and Dumbledore trusts that Snape is on his side. Fudge's unwillingness to believe Harry indicates that in future installments, the conflict will shift to whether or not Harry is believed.



By making Snape and Sirius shake hands, Dumbledore continues in his role as a teacher to show these men that even though they're adults, they still need to learn the value of reaching out and connecting with others in the community in times of need. When Dumbledore also makes sure that Winky receives care, it shows that he values her experience and doesn't want her to suffer.



Mrs. Weasley gives Harry the rest of his potion and suggests he focus on what to do with his money. Harry says the money should've been Cedric's and admits that he told Cedric to take the cup with him. As Harry starts to cry, Mrs. Weasley hugs him. They break apart when Hermione slams her hand against the window. Harry drinks his potion and falls asleep.

Harry's admission to Mrs. Weasley reminds Harry again that though Voldemort is ultimately to blame, his actions still have consequences, some of which can't be planned for and, noble or not, might end tragically.



CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

The next few days are a blur for Harry. The Diggorys refuse Harry's attempt to give them the Triwizard gold and Harry returns to Gryffindor Tower the next evening. Dumbledore spoke to the school and nobody asks Harry what happened. Harry notices, however, that students give him a wide berth and he thinks that they probably believe Rita Skeeter. Harry enjoys his time with Ron and Hermione the most, but he's sad when he learns that Dumbledore insisted that he spend some time with the Dursleys and not go straight to the Weasleys' after school ends.

When Harry suspects that many of his classmates believe what they read from Rita Skeeter, it again shows him how lacking the Wizarding world is in terms of critical thinking skills. The fact that Harry enjoys his time with Ron and Hermione speaks to the fact that, as the trio has come of age over this school year, they're better now at treating each other with kindness and understanding.



On Thursday, Harry, Ron, and Hermione go to visit Hagrid. They notice two huge cups and ask if he was having tea with Madame Maxime. He brushes them off and asks Harry if he's okay. Hagrid says that Harry will be okay and says he knew that Voldemort would return. He tells Harry that Dumbledore shared what Harry did and praises Harry for behaving as his father would have. When Harry asks what Dumbledore has asked Hagrid to do, Hagrid says only that he has a summer job and that Maxime might come along.

Hagrid's assessment of what happened and what will happen suggests he believes that history repeats itself, but that good will win out in the end. His praise of Harry means that, because Harry trusts Hagrid, Harry will feel more confident in making choices and continuing on his path to becoming a good person.



Harry doesn't look forward to the final feast. He notices the black decorations in respect of Cedric and sees the real Moody at the staff table. Madame Maxime sits with Hagrid and Karkaroff is absent. Harry wonders what Snape did for Dumbledore and wonders if Snape is really on his side. Dumbledore interrupts Harry's musings and asks students to toast Cedric's memory. He then tells the students that Voldemort murdered Cedric and says that it's important they hear the truth so they can properly honor Cedric.

By insisting that in order to effectively honor Cedric students must accept how he died, Dumbledore asks his students of all ages to understand how big, complicated, and unfeeling the greater Wizarding world is. If they can accept this, they, like Harry, will be better prepared to move forward knowing the truth.



Dumbledore then tells the students that Harry escaped Voldemort and brought Cedric's body back, and he asks them to raise their glasses to Harry. The Slytherins refuse to do so. Then, Dumbledore says that with Voldemort's return, it's even more important than ever that they maintain ties with their foreign friends. He says that everyone is welcome in his school and that the best way to fight Voldemort is to remain friendly and trusting of each other. He asks the students to remember that Cedric only died because he ended up in Voldemort's path.

When Dumbledore positions Hogwarts as a beacon of inclusion and goodwill towards everyone, it reminds the reader why Harry and Cedric won the Tournament in the first place: they, as Hogwarts representatives, triumphed because of their goodness, kindness, and willingness to work together towards a common goal.



As Harry prepares to take a carriage back to Hogsmeade, he hears Fleur yelling for him. She shakes his hand and says that she's going to get a job in England to practice her English. After she leaves, Ron wonders how the Durmstrang students will get home without Karkaroff. From behind Ron, Krum gruffly says that Karkaroff didn't help anyway; the students steered the ship. He pulls Hermione aside for a word. When they return, Krum tells Harry that he liked Cedric. As Krum walks away, Ron finally asks for his autograph.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione spend most of the train ride discussing what Dumbledore is doing to fight Voldemort. After Hermione pulls out a *Daily Prophet*, she assures him that there's nothing in there. She suspects that Fudge is forcing the paper to keep quiet. Harry comments that Rita Skeeter won't keep quiet, but in an odd voice, Hermione says that Skeeter won't write at all for a while. She says that she discovered how Skeeter was listening and coming onto the grounds: Skeeter is an unregistered Animagus and can turn into a beetle. At this, she pulls a glass jar out of her bag and explains that she caught her in the hospital wing. Harry remembers seeing a beetle at the Yule Ball, and Ron realizes that Malfoy was talking to Skeeter in his hand. Hermione says that she'll let her out in London and will spill her secret if Skeeter writes anything in the next year.

Malfoy slides the compartment open and menacingly compliments Hermione on catching Rita Skeeter. Harry tells Malfoy to leave, but Malfoy says that Harry picked the losing side--his friends will be the first to go with Voldemort back. At this, Harry, Ron, and Hermione hex Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle at the same time--but Fred and George hexed them too. They roll the bullies into the hallway and Fred and George start a game of Exploding Snap.

A few games in, Harry asks who Fred and George were blackmailing. They darkly say that it was Bagman. Bagman paid them their winnings from their bet at the World Cup in leprechaun gold and then refused to either pay up in real gold or give them their money back. George says they eventually learned that Bagman had a gambling problem and was in trouble betting with goblins. He had a bet with them that Harry would win, but the goblins insisted that Harry tied with Cedric. Bagman ran after the third task.

Though Harry has paid relatively little attention to Fleur throughout the novel, her goodbye suggests that Dumbledore's stated aims for the Tournament will come to pass--the Tournament has exposed Fleur to England and now, she wants to be a part of its society and if she stays, will presumably help fight Voldemort in the future.



Figuring out who and what Rita Skeeter is represents a major triumph for Hermione, as it suggests that she's learned how to use all the tools available to her to critically evaluate situations and texts and can come to her own conclusions with what she learns. By capturing Skeeter and placing these restrictions on her, Hermione also shows that she's going to channel her activism in a new direction by making sure that Skeeter's voice won't add to the mayhem and lies that are sure to appear in the coming months.



When Fred and George surprise the trio by hexing Malfoy and his cronies, it again reminds Harry that his community is much larger than he initially thought it was. The twins are allies and will stand up for Harry and his friends, and there are likely other allies out there that Harry hasn't even thought of yet.



Because goblins don't have the same rights as humans in the Wizarding world, it's likely that they have even less recourse than Fred and George do to pursue Bagman legally. This offers another area in which Hermione's activism might be useful, as the goblins are just as deserving of fair gambling practices as anyone else.



Soon, the train reaches King's Cross. Harry stays in the compartment and asks Fred and George to wait. He gives George the money from the Triwizard Tournament and tells them to start their joke shop, saying that they'll need laughs with Voldemort back. They try to refuse, but Harry threatens to hex them if they don't take it. He asks them to buy Ron new dress robes with it and leaves them in the compartment. Out in the station, Harry says goodbye to Ron, Hermione, and Mrs. Weasley and follows Uncle Vernon to the car.

By asking Fred and George to buy Ron dress robes, Harry uses his wealth and fame for good by making sure that in the future, Ron will feel comfortable in his clothing. His insistence that they'll all need laughs with Voldemort around also shows that Harry now understands what the future might be like going forward--and that it's going to look much like the recent past.



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